

MARVEL 003

HOUSER
SILVA
WONG
ROSENBERG

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

ULTIMATE FLIGHT



MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

ULTIMATE FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL, *MAXIMUM RIDE: SCHOOL'S OUT FOREVER*, BY JAMES PATTERSON



FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, **MAXIMUM RIDE** AND THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** ARE GETTING A CHANCE AT A NORMAL LIFE: SCHOOL, FILLING MEALS, AND A SAFE PLACE TO STAY WITH AN FBI AGENT, **ANNE**.

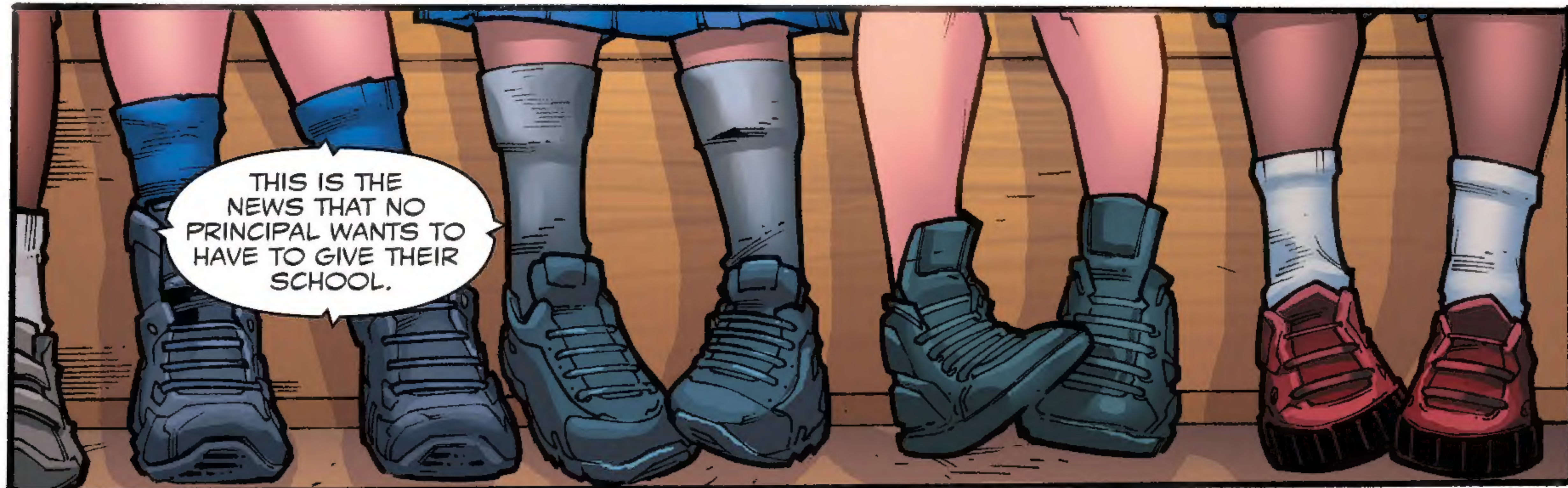
YET, THINGS SEEM ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. PLAGUED WITH WORRY, MAX HAS TAKEN EVERY PRECAUTION POSSIBLE TO PROTECT HER FAMILY FROM **ARI** AND THE **ERASERS**, DETERMINED TO NOT LET ANYONE HARM THE ONES SHE LOVES MOST, OR WORSE, BRING THEM BACK TO THE LAB.

MEANWHILE, THE NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR THEIR BIOLOGICAL FAMILIES CONTINUES, WITH **IGGY'S** PARENTS FINALLY BEING FOUND!

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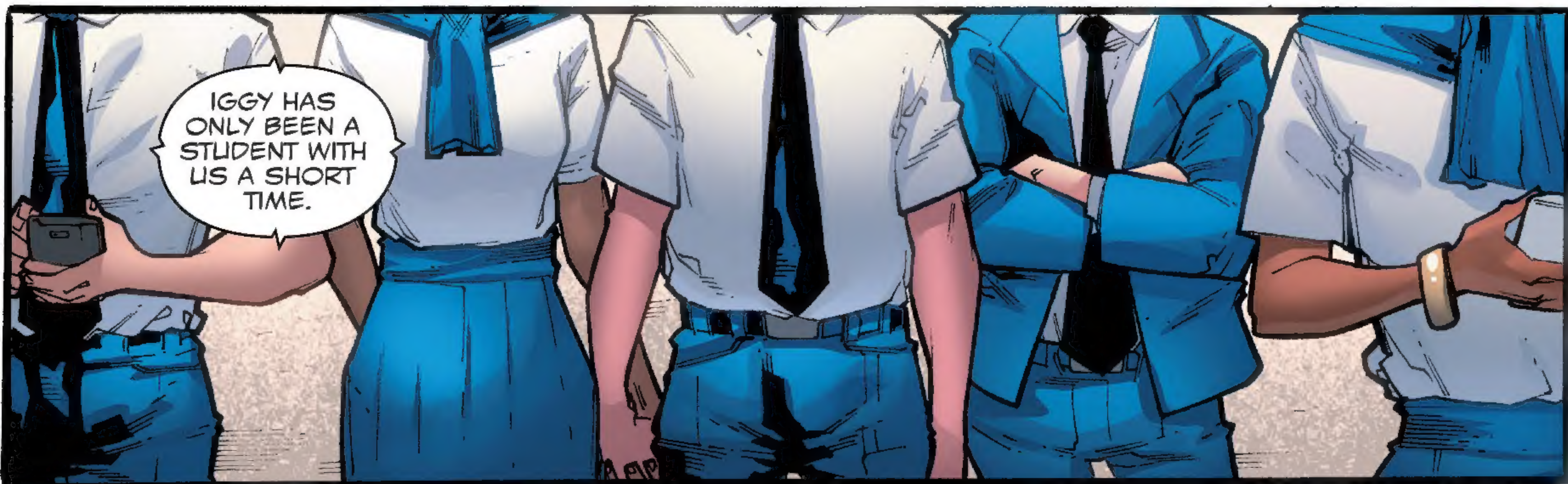
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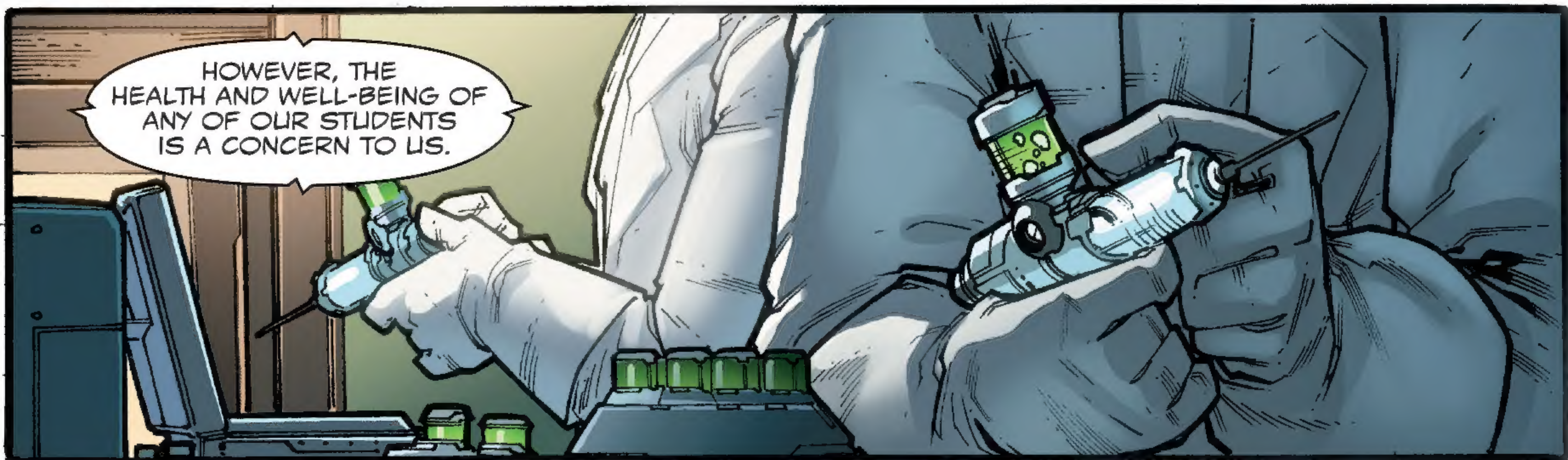
THIS IS THE NEWS THAT NO PRINCIPAL WANTS TO HAVE TO GIVE THEIR SCHOOL.



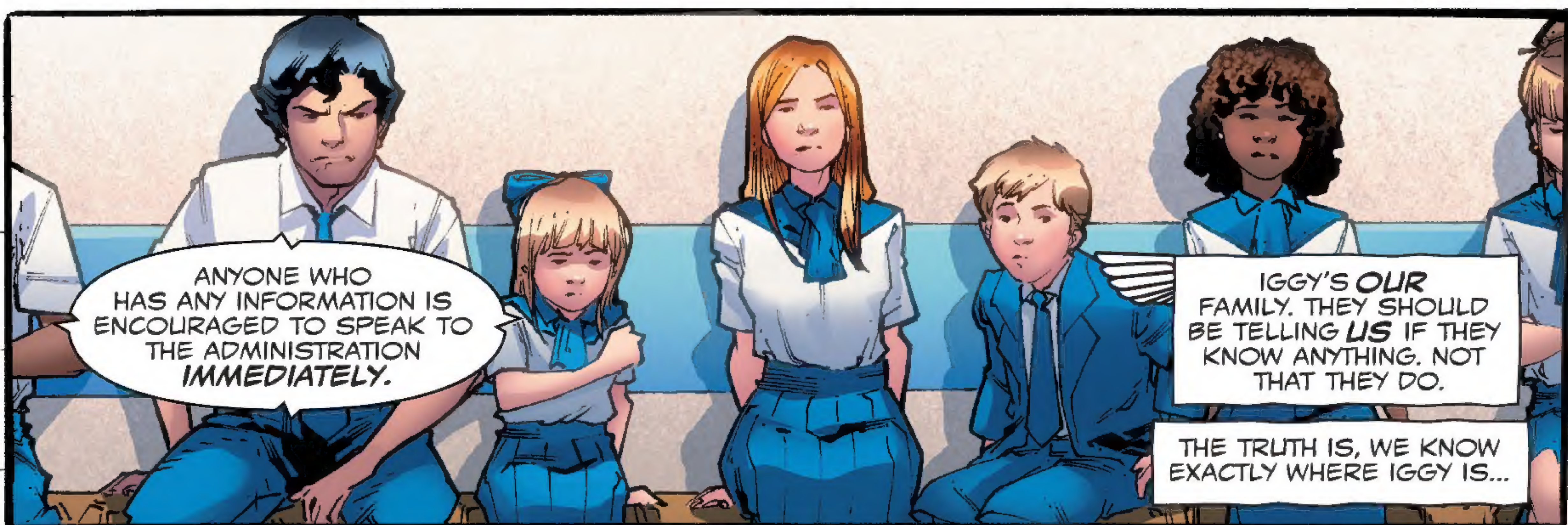
ONE OF OUR STUDENTS, **IGGY WALKER**, WAS REPORTED MISSING SEVERAL DAYS AGO BY HIS AUNT.



IGGY HAS ONLY BEEN A STUDENT WITH US A SHORT TIME.



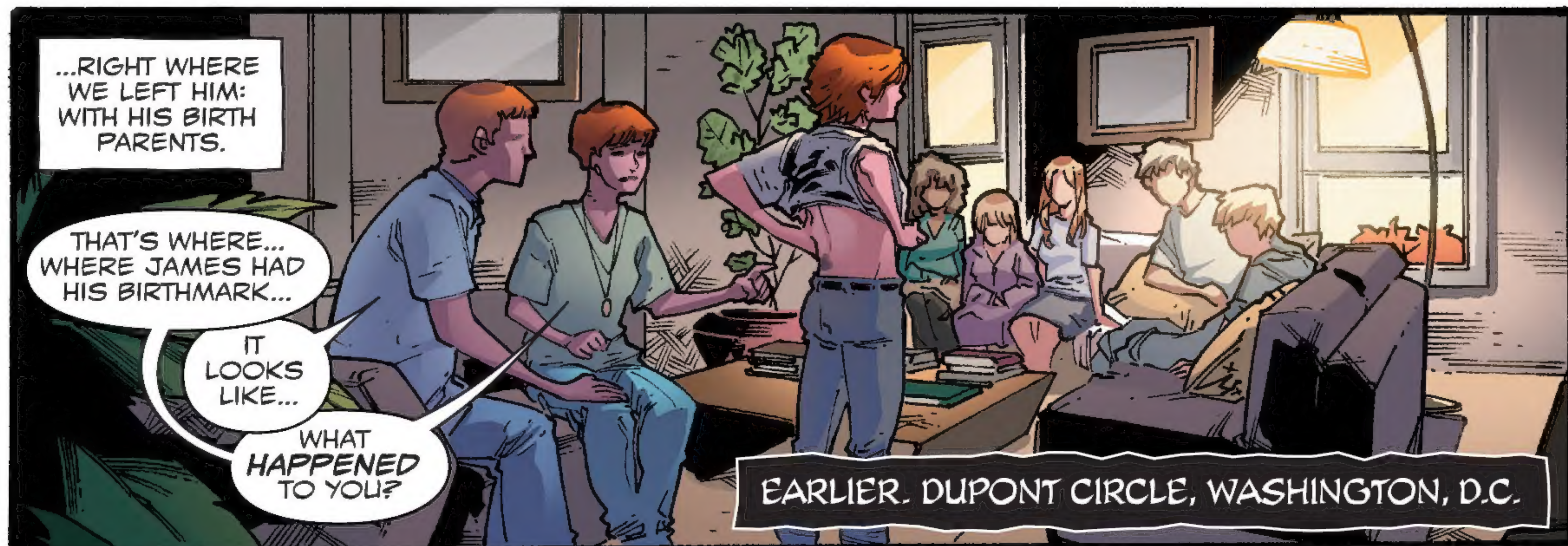
HOWEVER, THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ANY OF OUR STUDENTS IS A CONCERN TO US.



ANYONE WHO HAS ANY INFORMATION IS ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK TO THE ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY.

IGGY'S **OUR** FAMILY. THEY SHOULD BE TELLING **US** IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING. NOT THAT THEY DO.

THE TRUTH IS, WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IGGY IS...



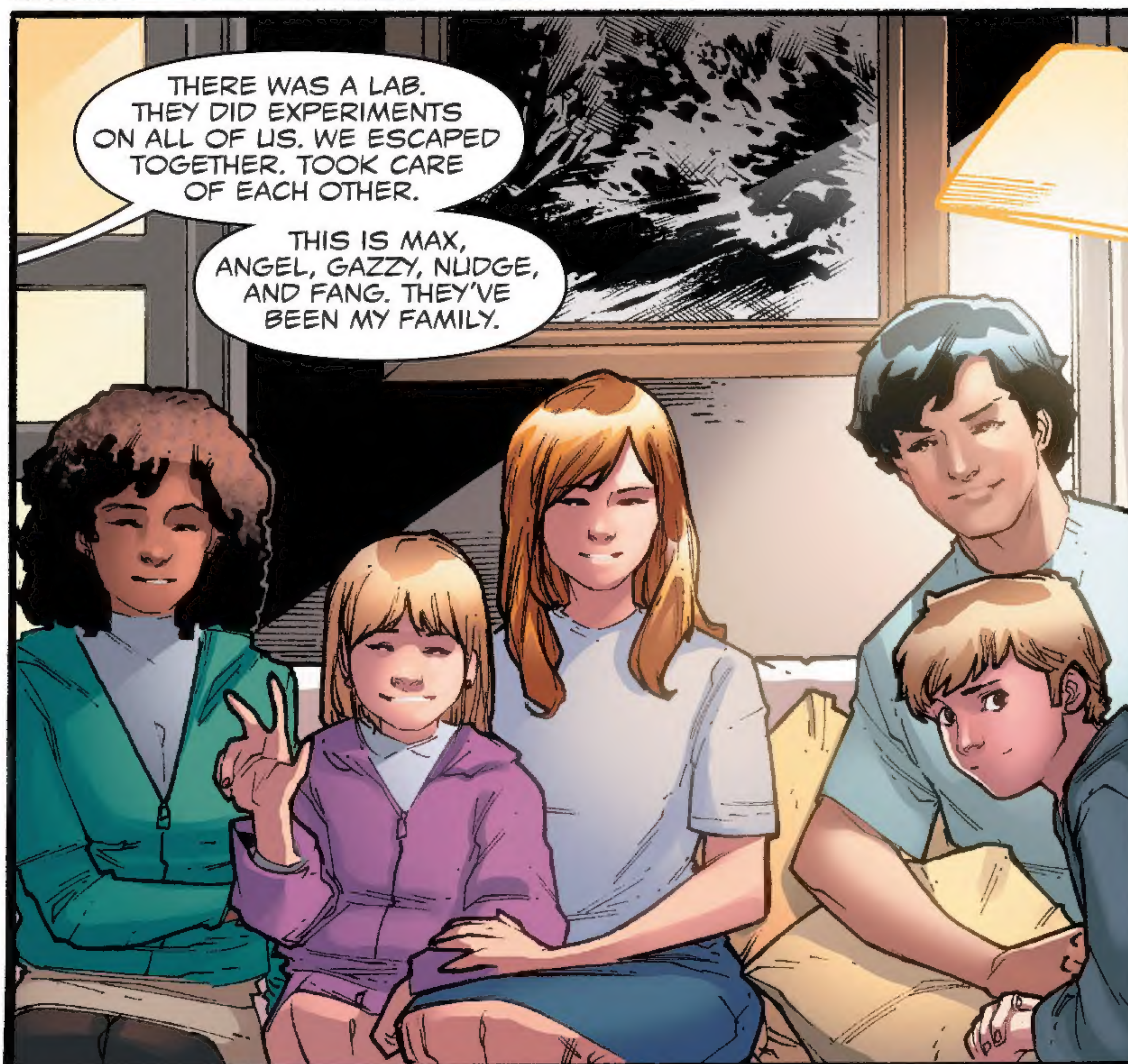
...RIGHT WHERE
WE LEFT HIM:
WITH HIS BIRTH
PARENTS.

THAT'S WHERE...
WHERE JAMES HAD
HIS BIRTHMARK...

IT
LOOKS
LIKE...

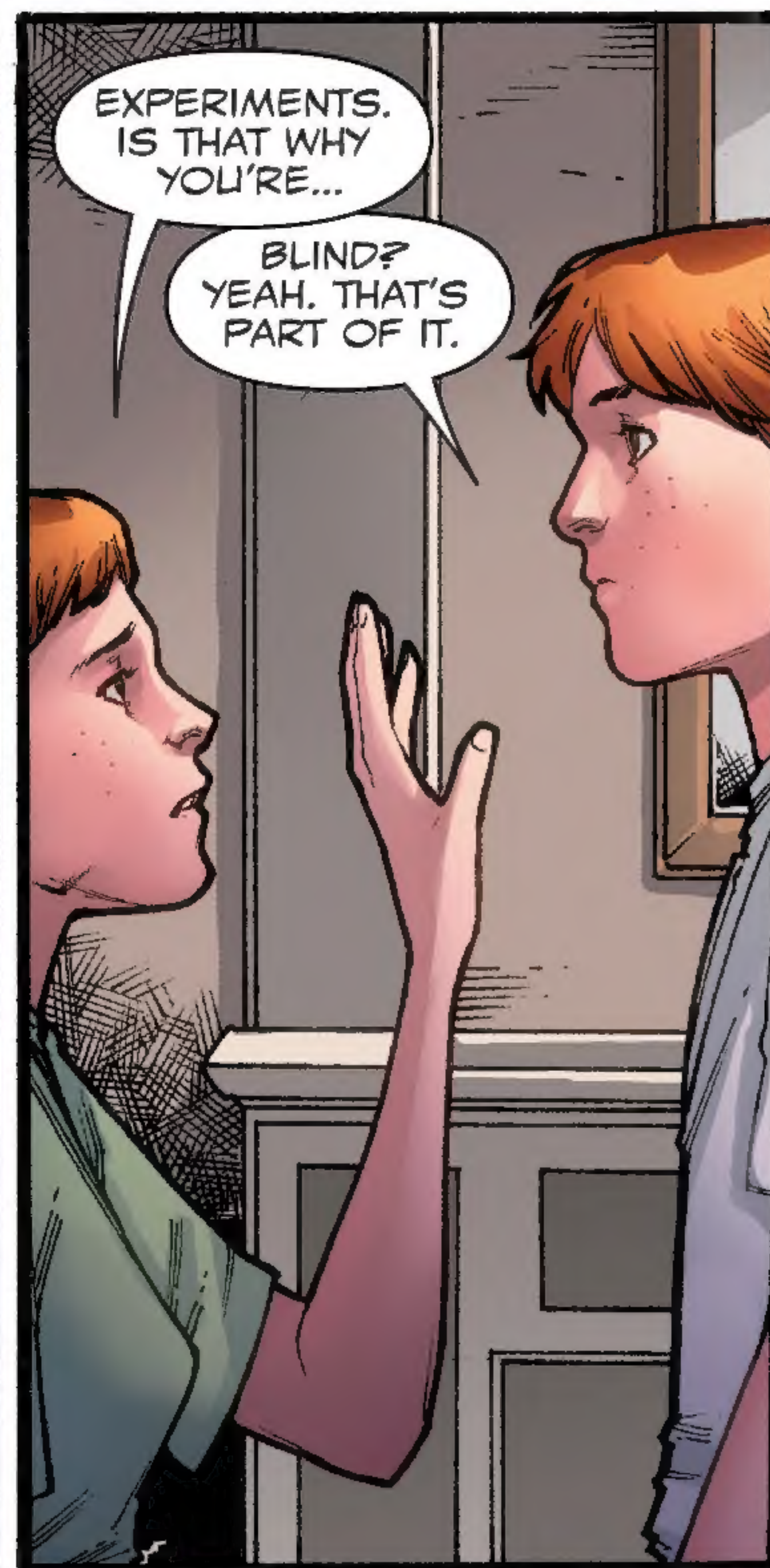
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU?

EARLIER. DUPONT CIRCLE, WASHINGTON, D.C.



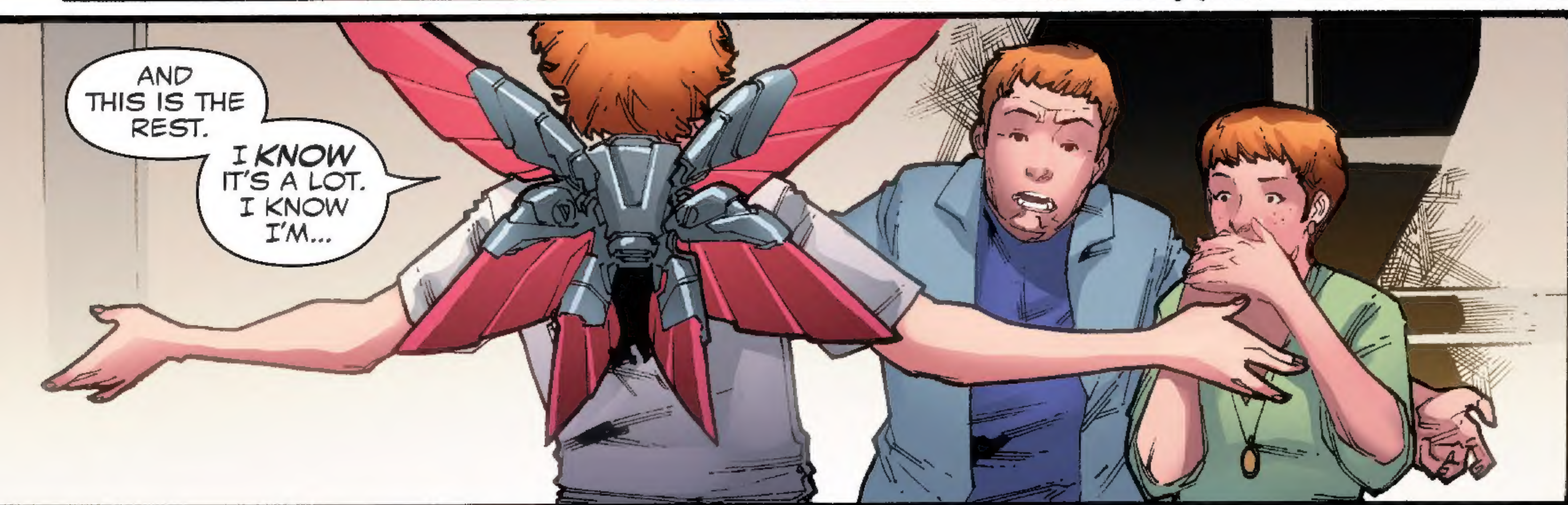
THERE WAS A LAB.
THEY DID EXPERIMENTS
ON ALL OF US. WE ESCAPED
TOGETHER. TOOK CARE
OF EACH OTHER.

THIS IS MAX,
ANGEL, GAZZY, NUDGE,
AND FANG. THEY'VE
BEEN MY FAMILY.



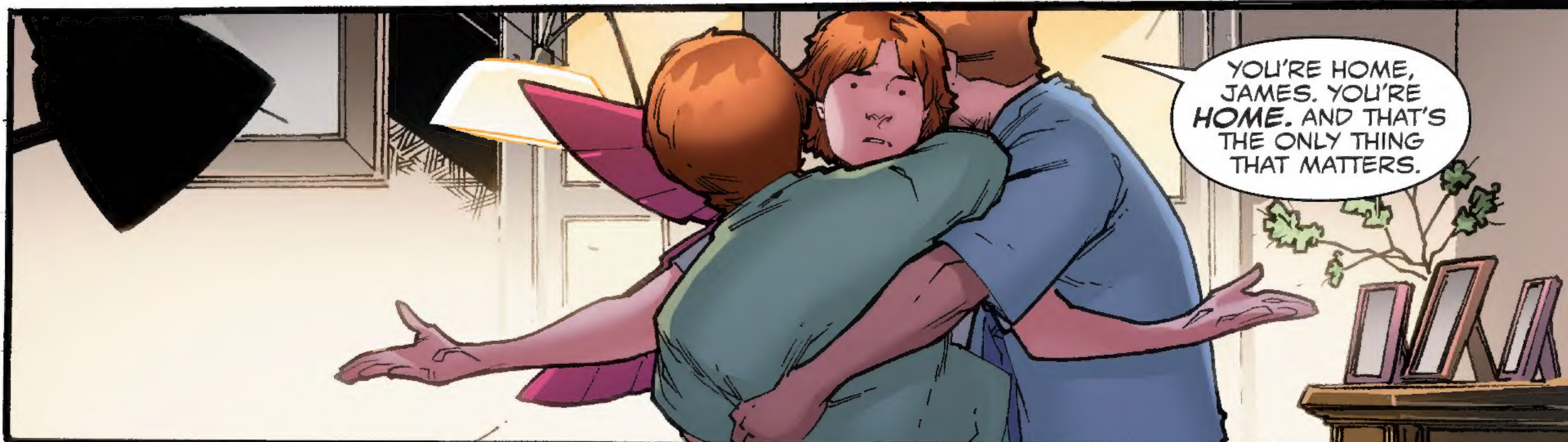
EXPERIMENTS.
IS THAT WHY
YOU'RE...

BLIND?
YEAH. THAT'S
PART OF IT.

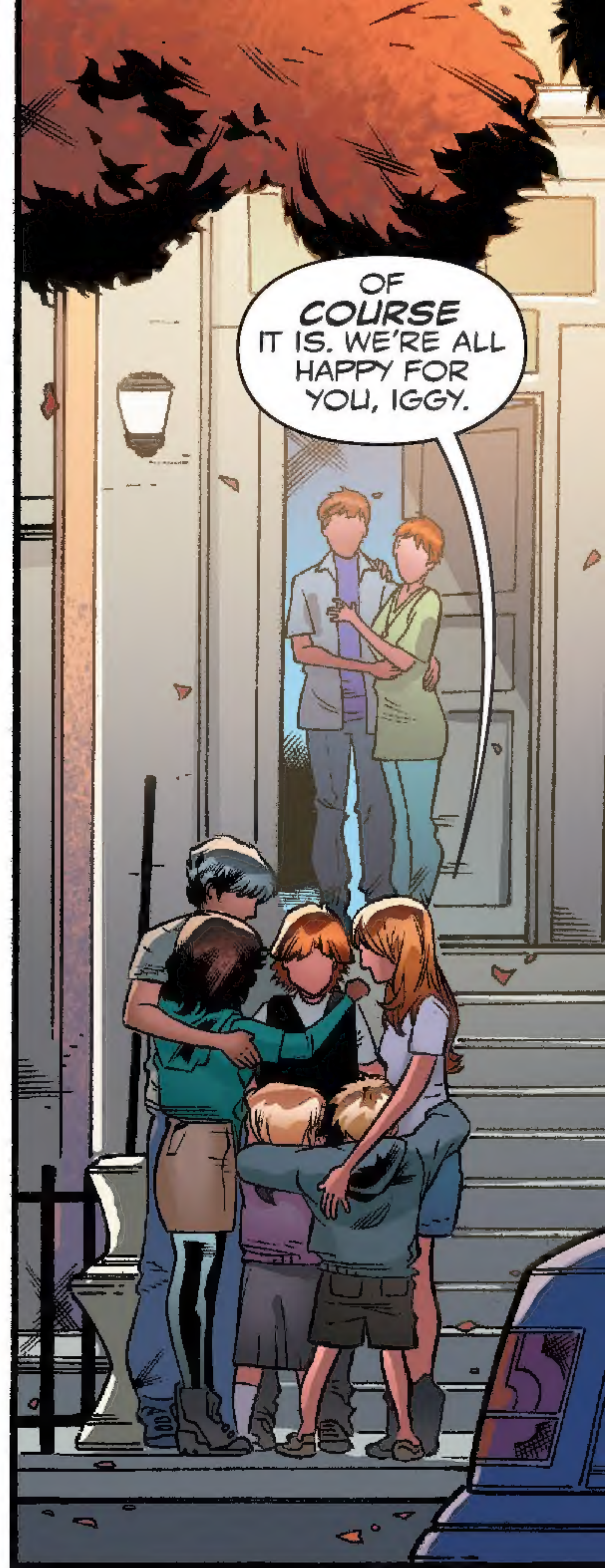
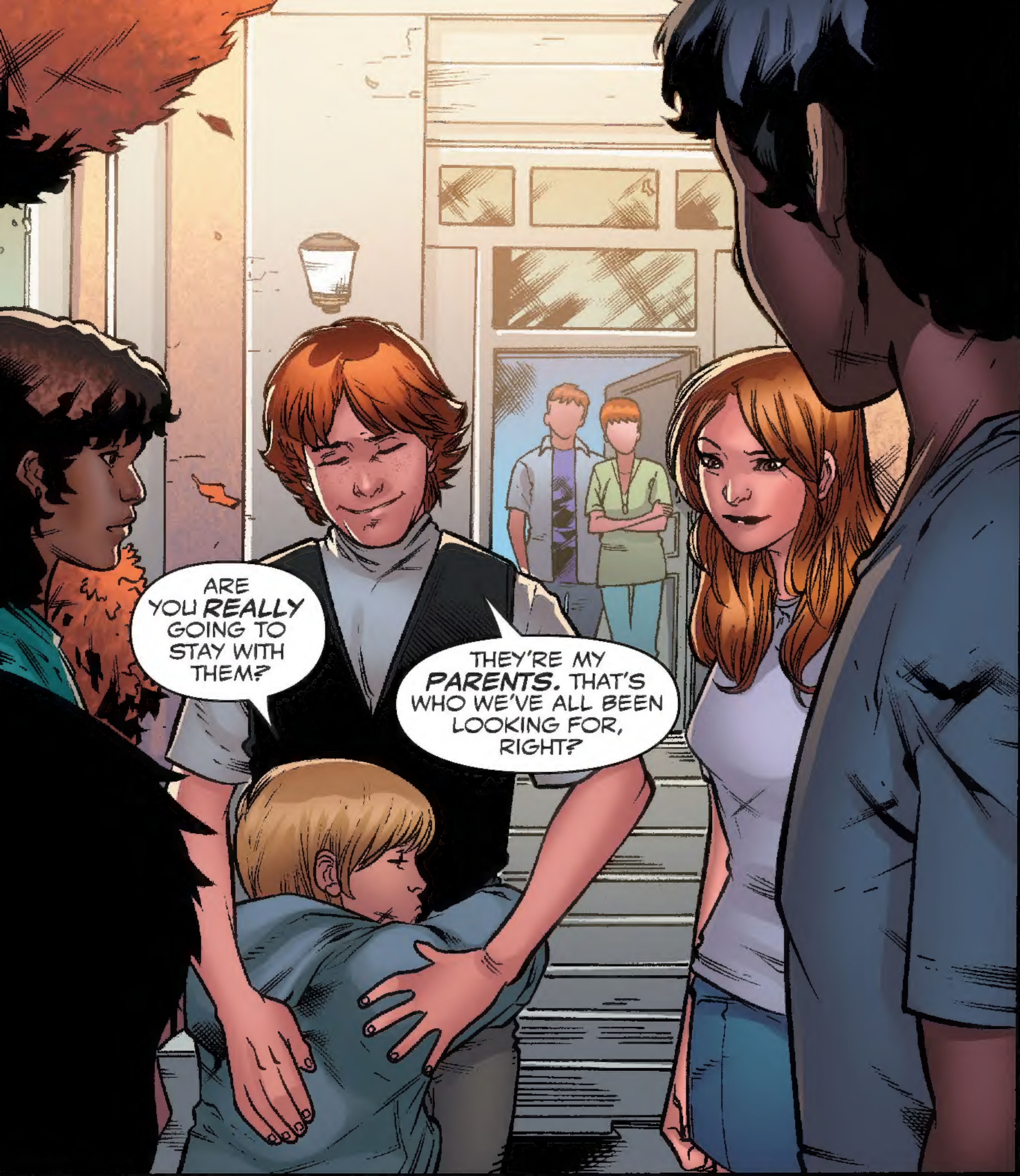


AND
THIS IS THE
REST.

I KNOW
IT'S A LOT.
I KNOW
I'M...



YOU'RE HOME,
JAMES. YOU'RE
HOME. AND THAT'S
THE ONLY THING
THAT MATTERS.





LYING TO ANNE WAS THE HARDEST PART. SHE'S TRIED SO HARD TO TAKE CARE OF US.

AND **NONE** OF YOU SAW HIM LEAVE? **NO** IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE?

NO. HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO US.

THE OTHERS DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE TOLD ME BEFORE THANKSGIVING THAT SHE WANTED TO ADOPT US. MAKE US ALL A REAL FAMILY.



DO YOU THINK **MAYBE** WE SHOULDN'T BE EATING BIRDS? IS IT SOME KIND OF SEMI-CANNIBALISM?

THAT'S... NOT THE MATTER AT HAND NOW, NUDGE.

I KNOW IGGY THINKS HE'S SELF-RELIANT, BUT FOR ALL HIS POWERS, HE IS STILL **BLIND**.



THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER TRIED TO MAKE US INTO A FAMILY WAS JEB.

AND THE WHOLE TIME HE WAS JUST ANOTHER SCIENTIST GETTING HIS KICKS TOYING WITH OUR HEADS.

WHAT ARE YOU--

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT PLANNING TO TELL ANYONE YOUR SECRET.

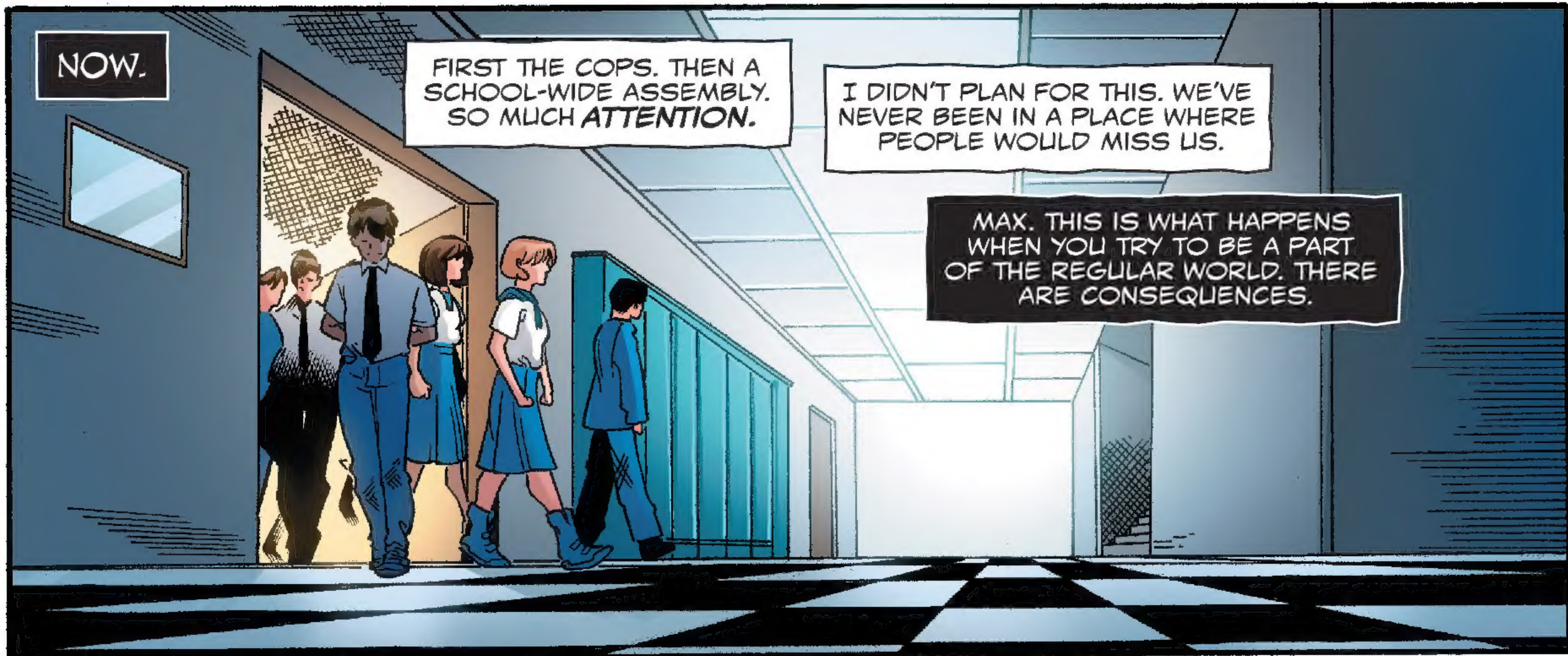
BUT IT'S TIME TO GET THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED.



MAYBE THIS TIME IT COULD HAVE REALLY WORKED.

BUT I **PROMISED** THE KIDS WE'D FIND THEIR BIRTH PARENTS. AND FEELING SORRY FOR SOME FBI AGENT WE'VE ONLY KNOWN A COUPLE MONTHS DOESN'T CHANGE THAT.

HELLO, I'D LIKE TO REPORT A MISSING MINOR...

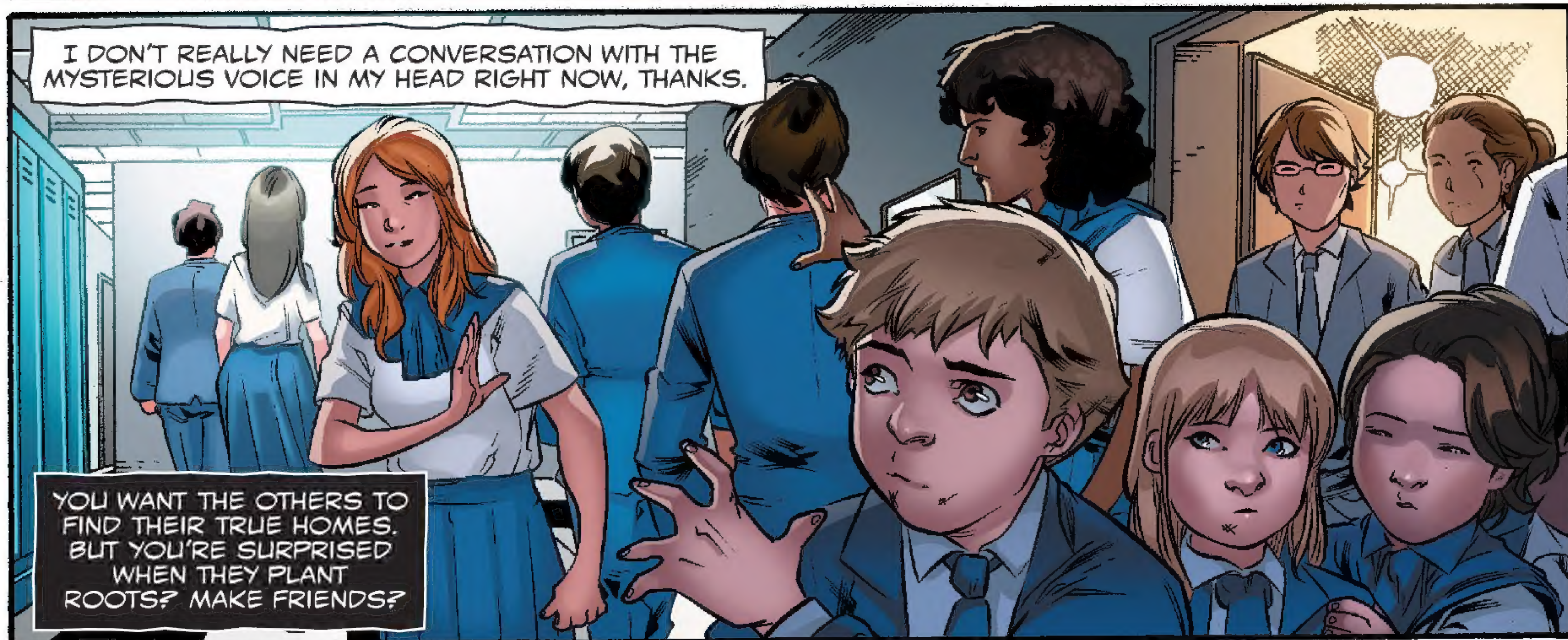


NOW.

FIRST THE COPS. THEN A SCHOOL-WIDE ASSEMBLY. SO MUCH **ATTENTION**.

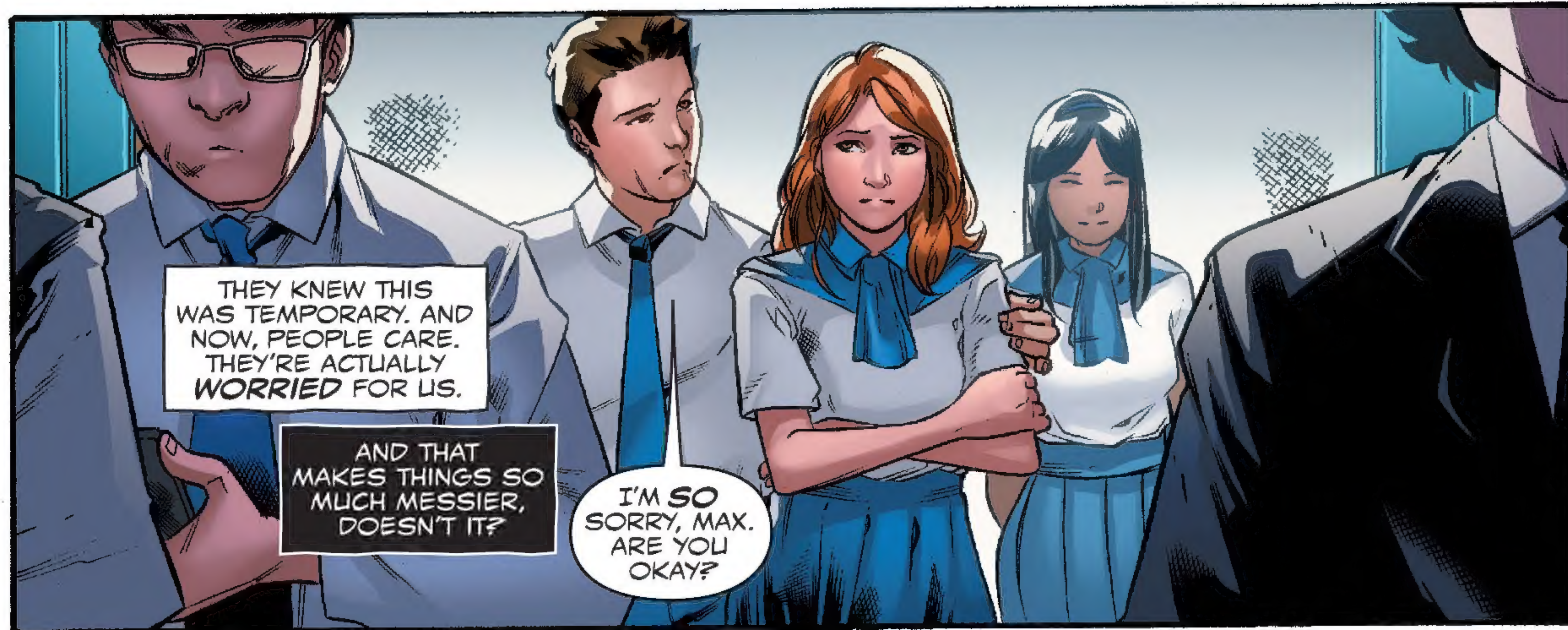
I DIDN'T PLAN FOR THIS. WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WOULD MISS US.

MAX. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO BE A PART OF THE REGULAR WORLD. THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES.



I DON'T REALLY NEED A CONVERSATION WITH THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE IN MY HEAD RIGHT NOW, THANKS.

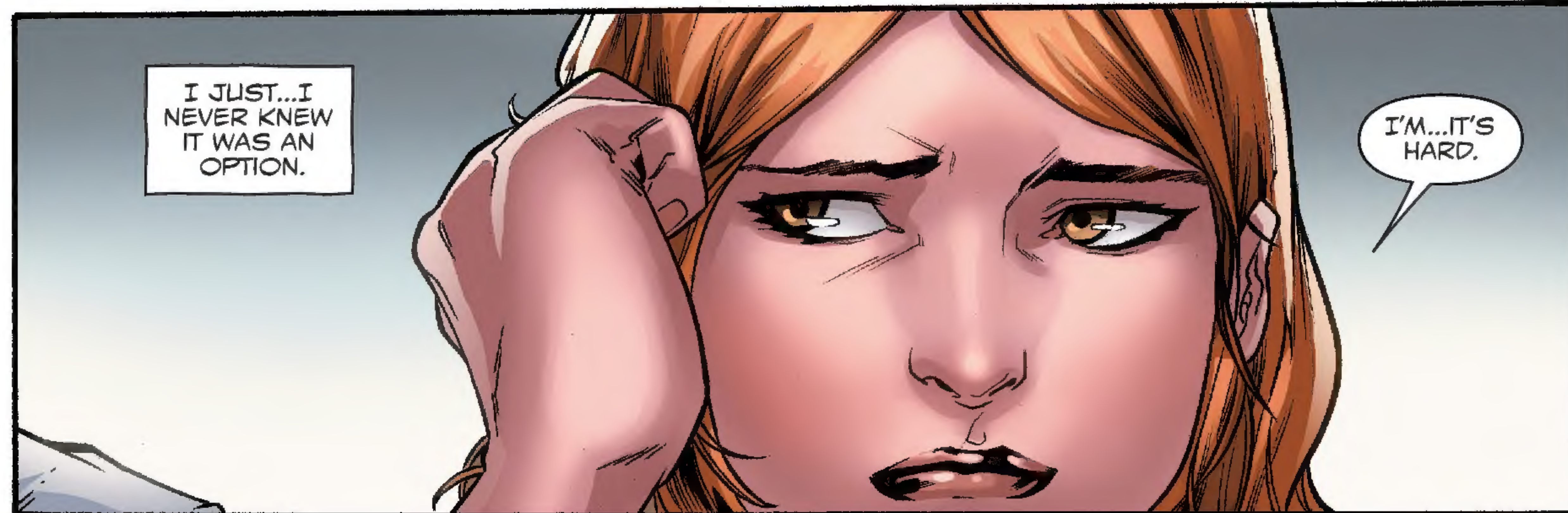
YOU WANT THE OTHERS TO FIND THEIR TRUE HOMES. BUT YOU'RE SURPRISED WHEN THEY PLANT ROOTS? MAKE FRIENDS?



THEY KNEW THIS WAS TEMPORARY. AND NOW, PEOPLE CARE. THEY'RE ACTUALLY **WORRIED** FOR US.

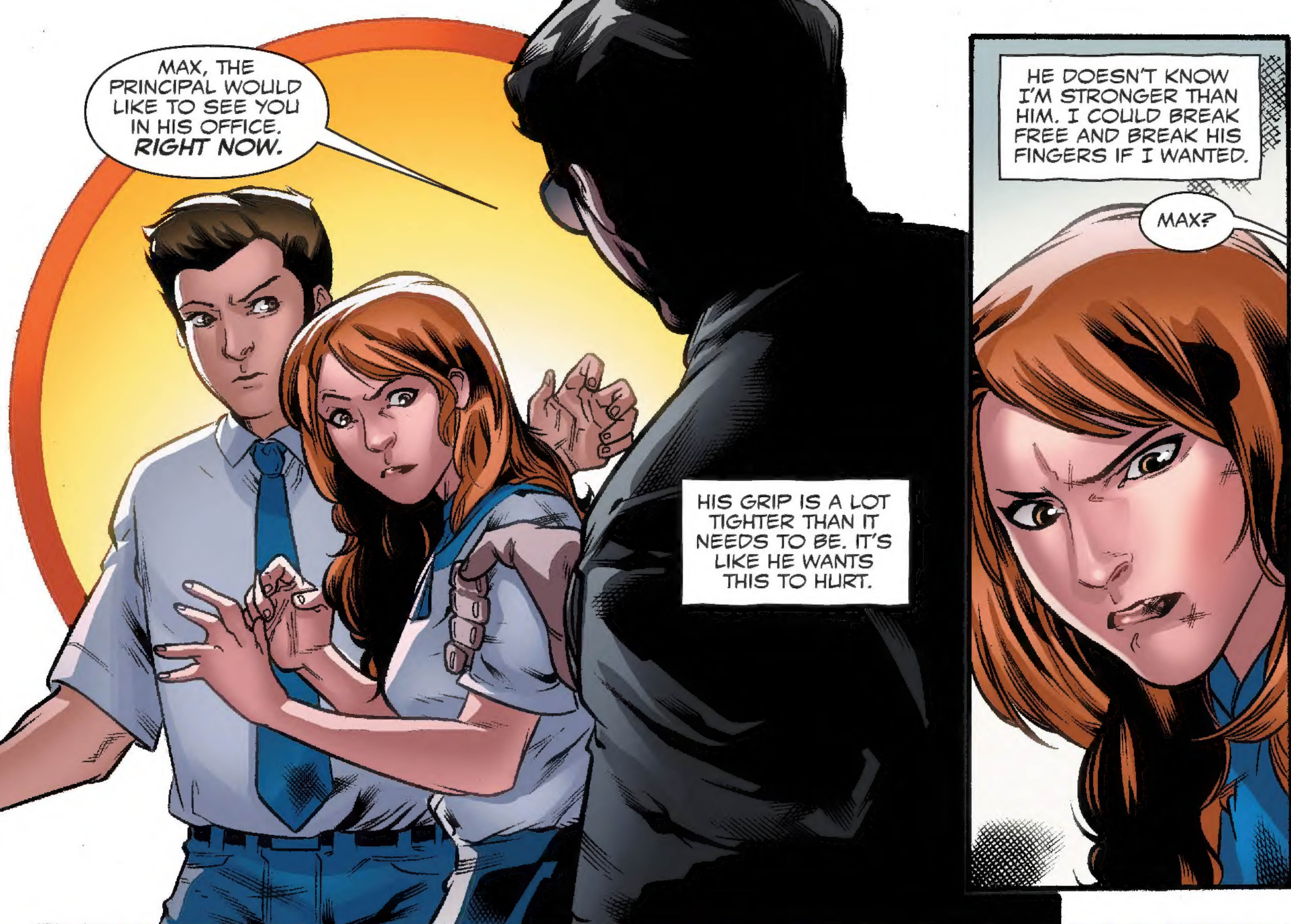
AND THAT MAKES THINGS SO MUCH MESSIER, DOESN'T IT?

I'M SO SORRY, MAX. ARE YOU OKAY?



I JUST...I NEVER KNEW IT WAS AN OPTION.

I'M...IT'S HARD.

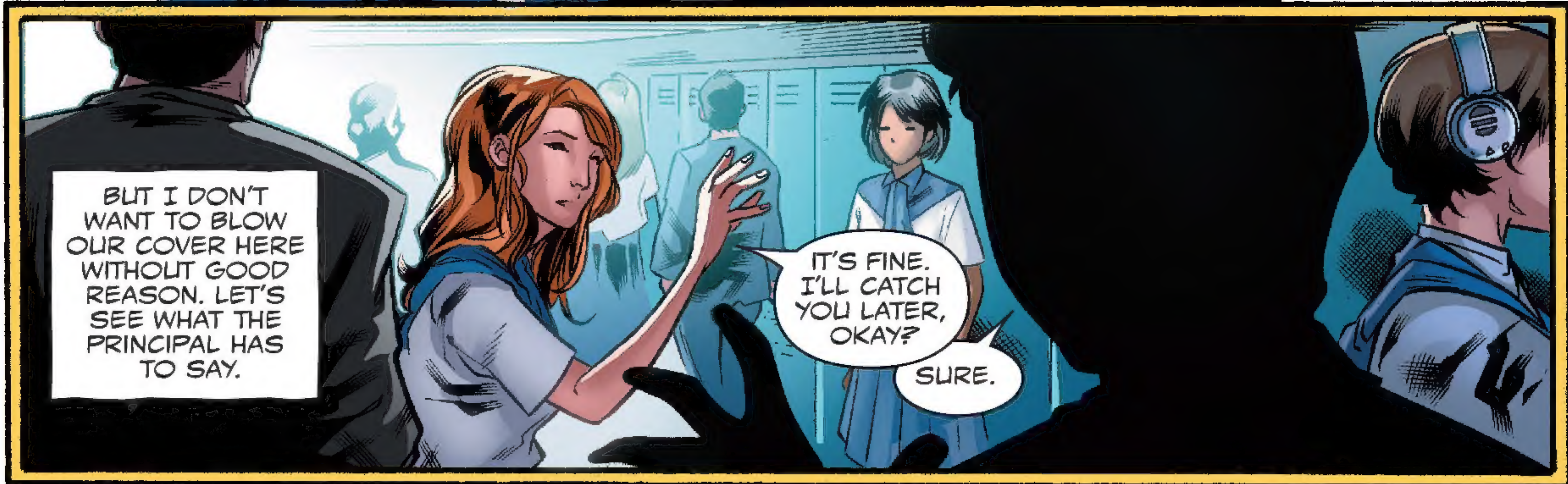


MAX, THE PRINCIPAL WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE. **RIGHT NOW.**

HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M STRONGER THAN HIM. I COULD BREAK FREE AND BREAK HIS FINGERS IF I WANTED.

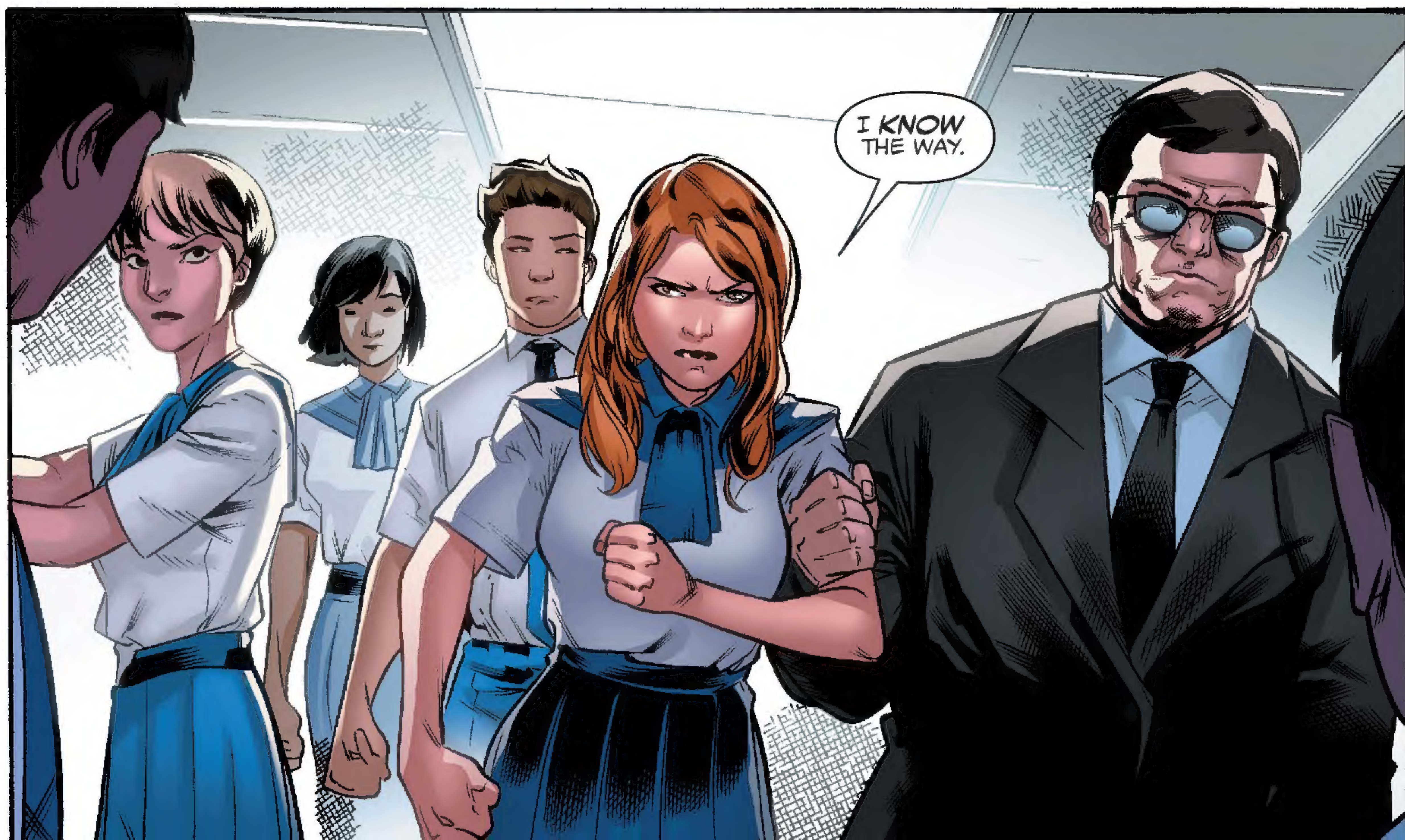
MAX?

HIS GRIP IS A LOT TIGHTER THAN IT NEEDS TO BE. IT'S LIKE HE WANTS THIS TO HURT.



BUT I DON'T WANT TO BLOW OUR COVER HERE WITHOUT GOOD REASON. LET'S SEE WHAT THE PRINCIPAL HAS TO SAY.

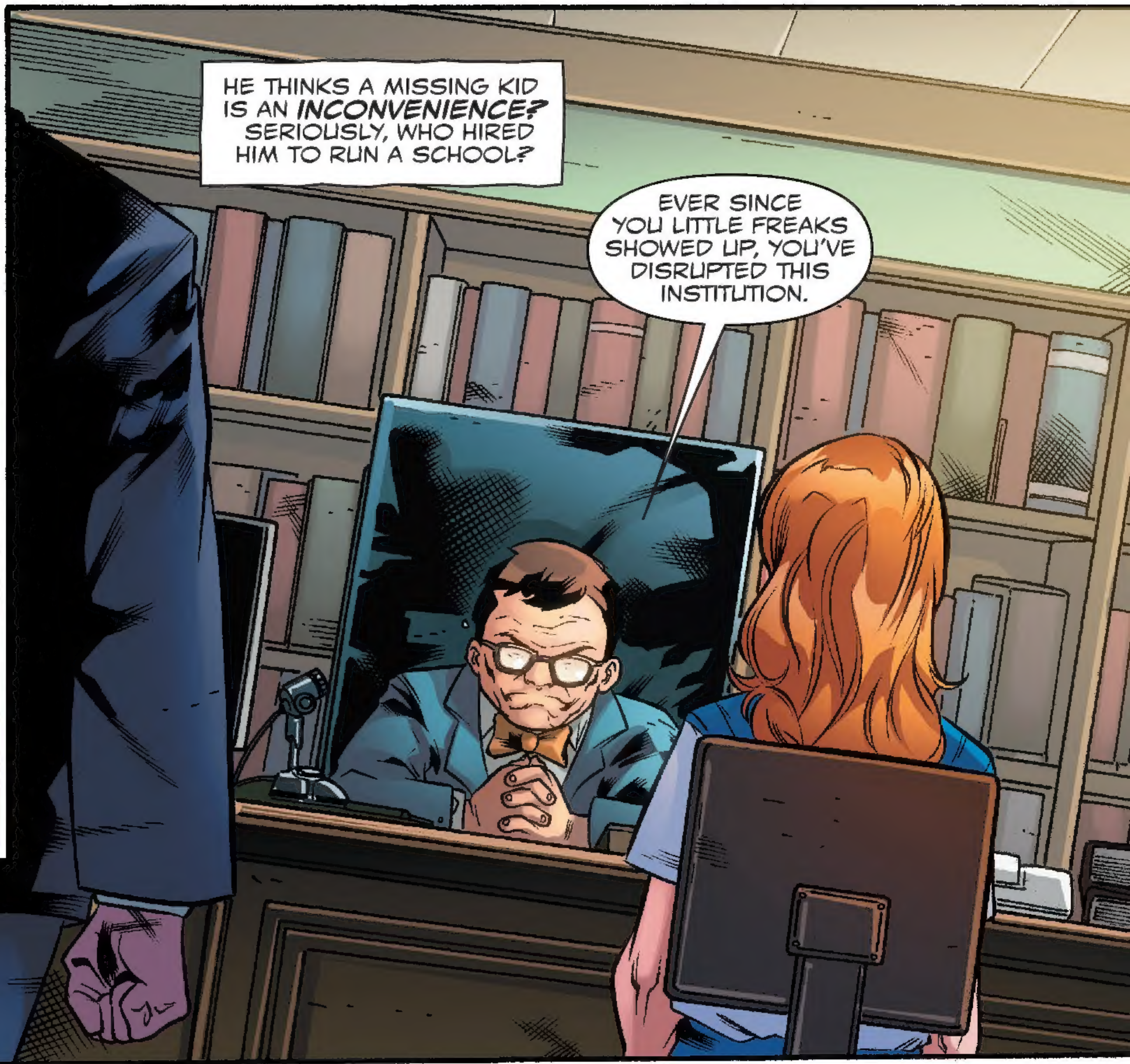
IT'S FINE. I'LL CATCH YOU LATER, OKAY?
SURE.



I KNOW THE WAY.



YOU'D THINK
THAT ONE FEWER
OF YOUR FAMILY
WOULD MEAN **LESS**
OF A HEADACHE,
NOT MORE.

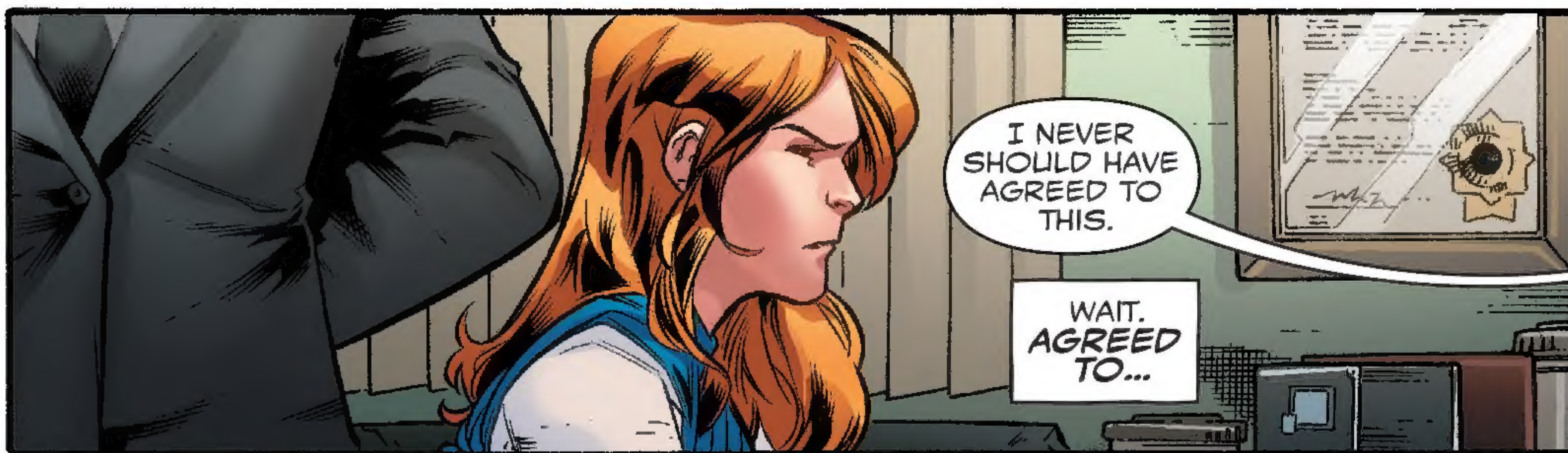


HE THINKS A MISSING KID
IS AN **INCONVENIENCE**?
SERIOUSLY, WHO HIRED
HIM TO RUN A SCHOOL?

EVER SINCE
YOU LITTLE FREAKS
SHOWED UP, YOU'VE
DISRUPTED THIS
INSTITUTION.

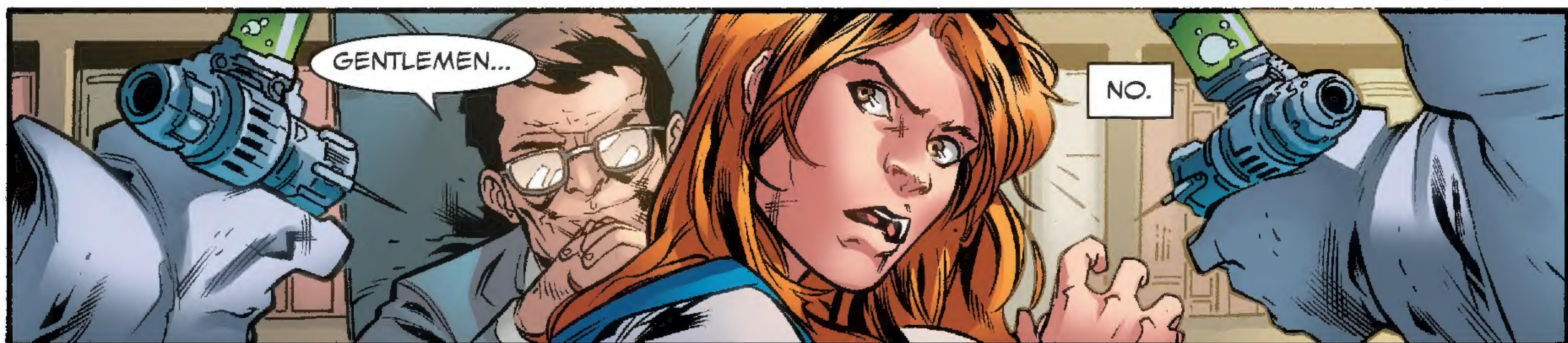


TEACHERS
ACTING STRANGE.
DISTRACTIONS. **EXPLOSIVES.**
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF
YOUR FAMILY.



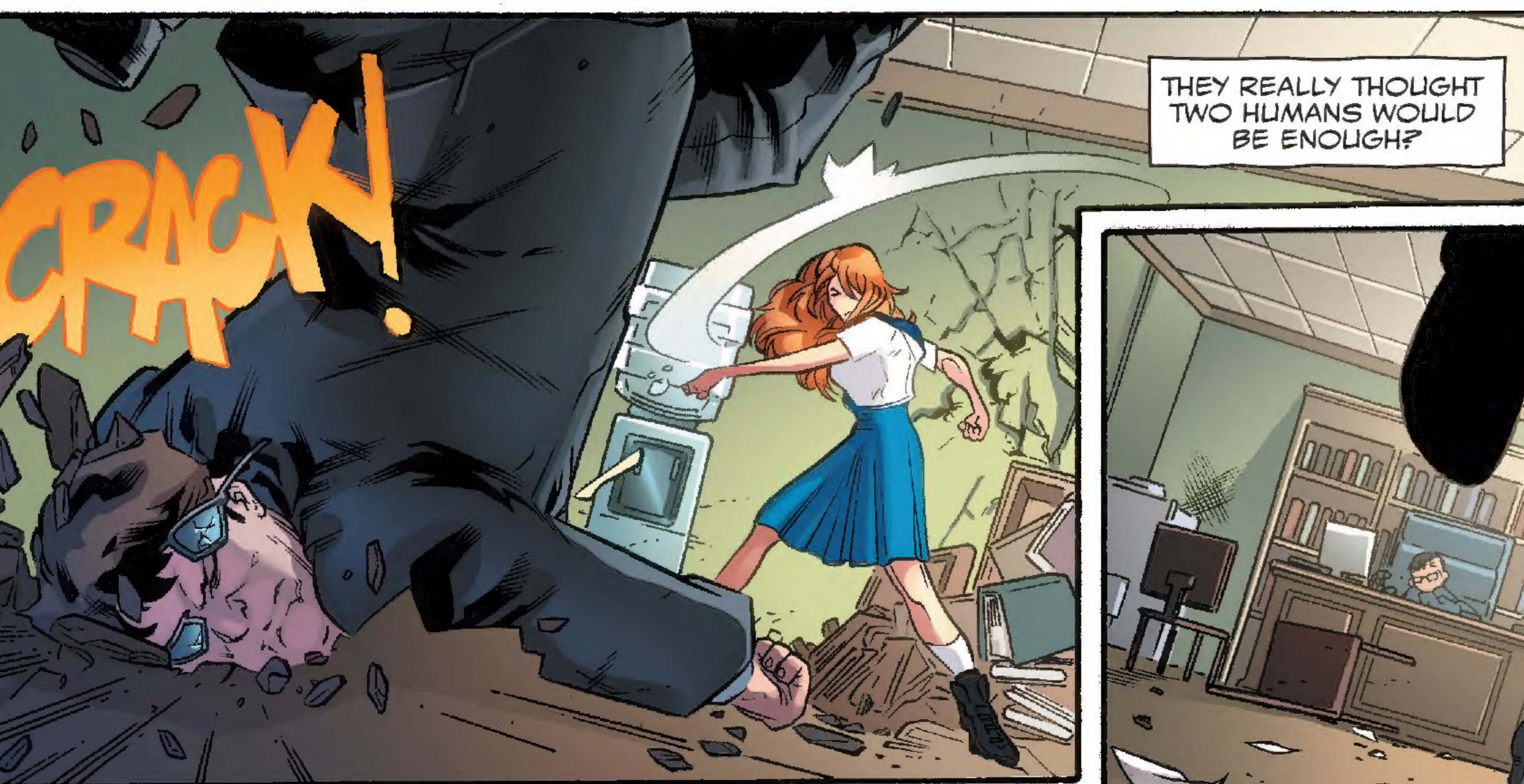
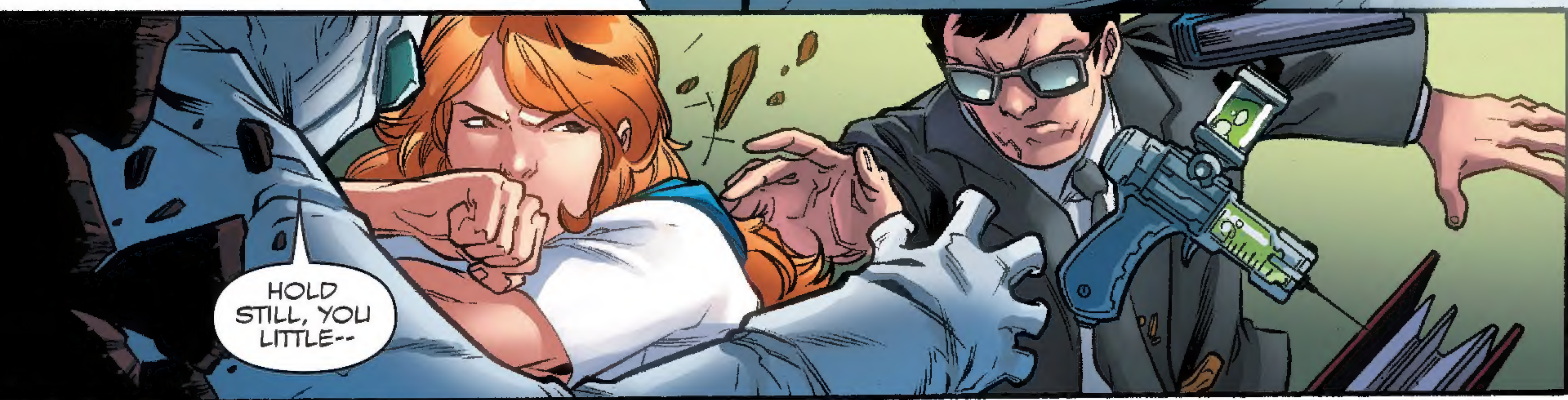
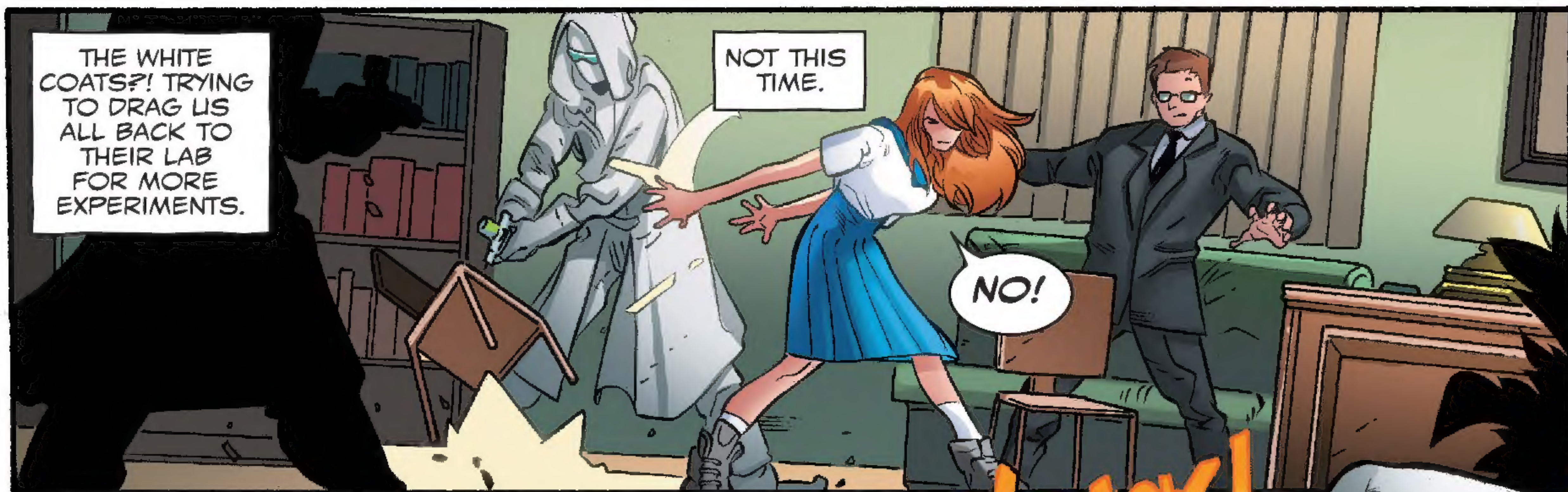
I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
AGREED TO
THIS.

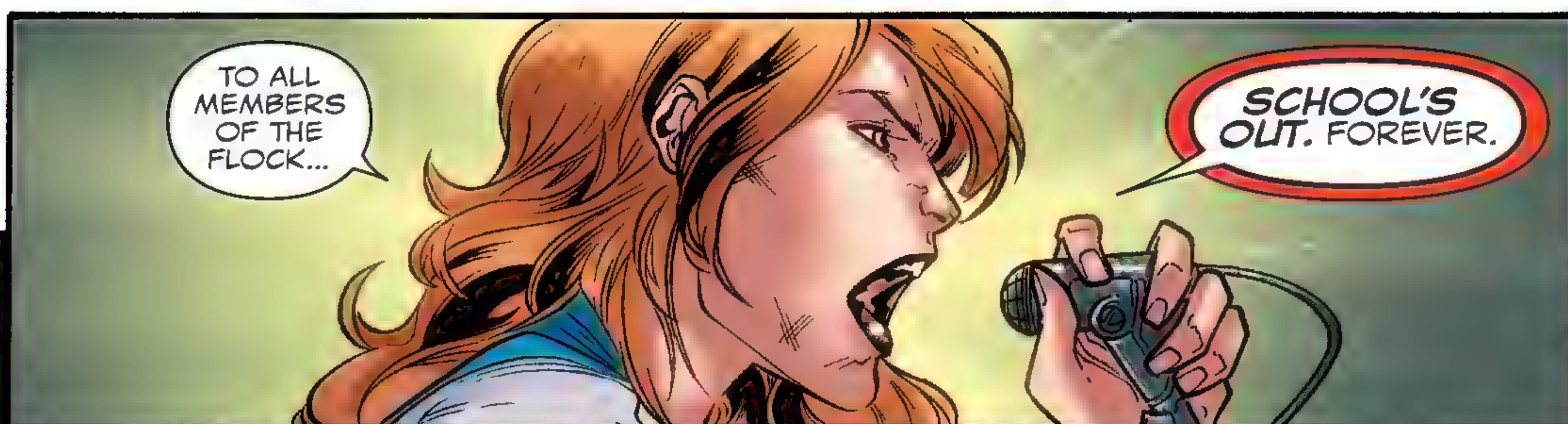
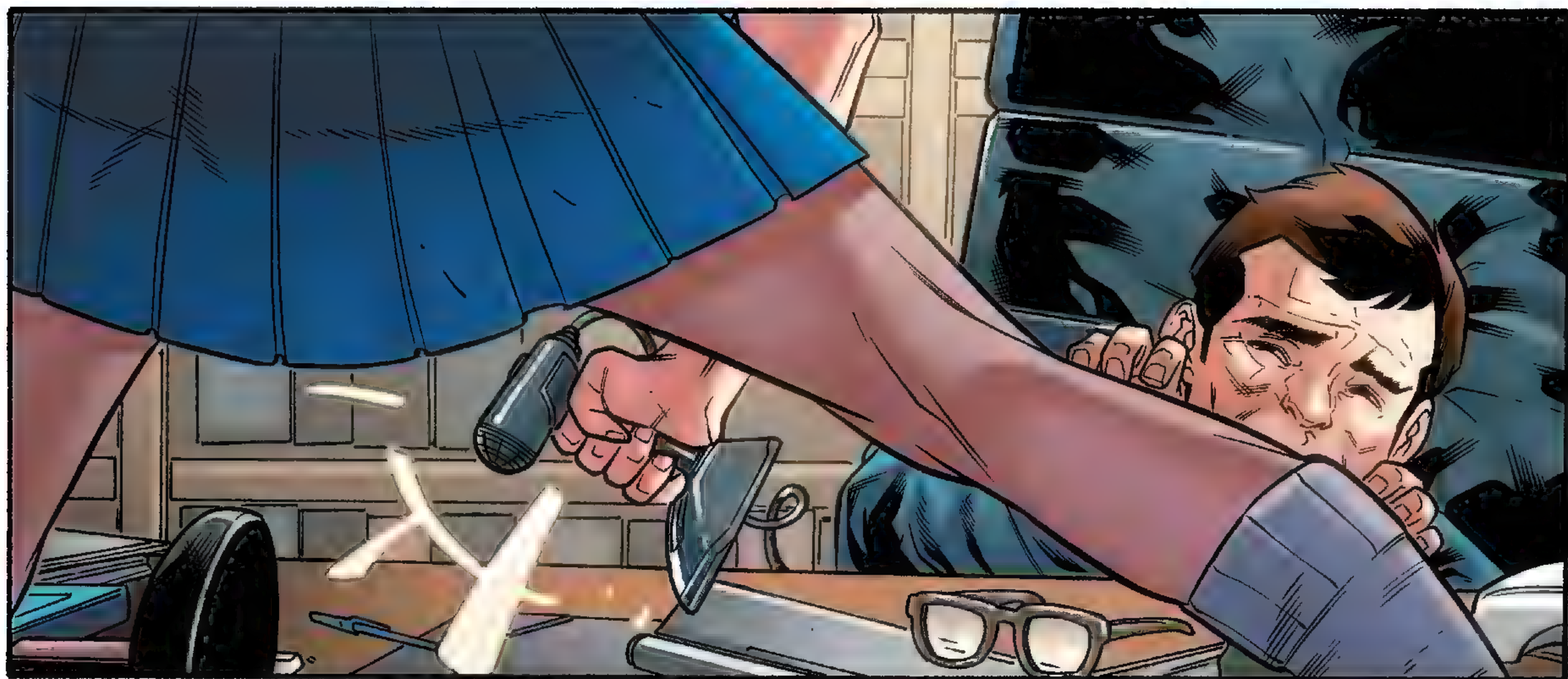
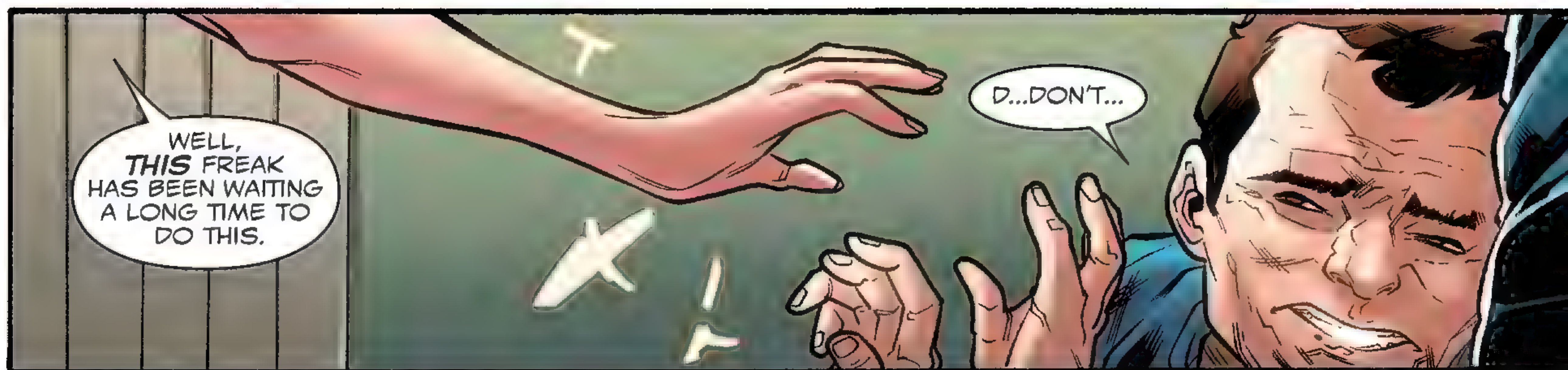
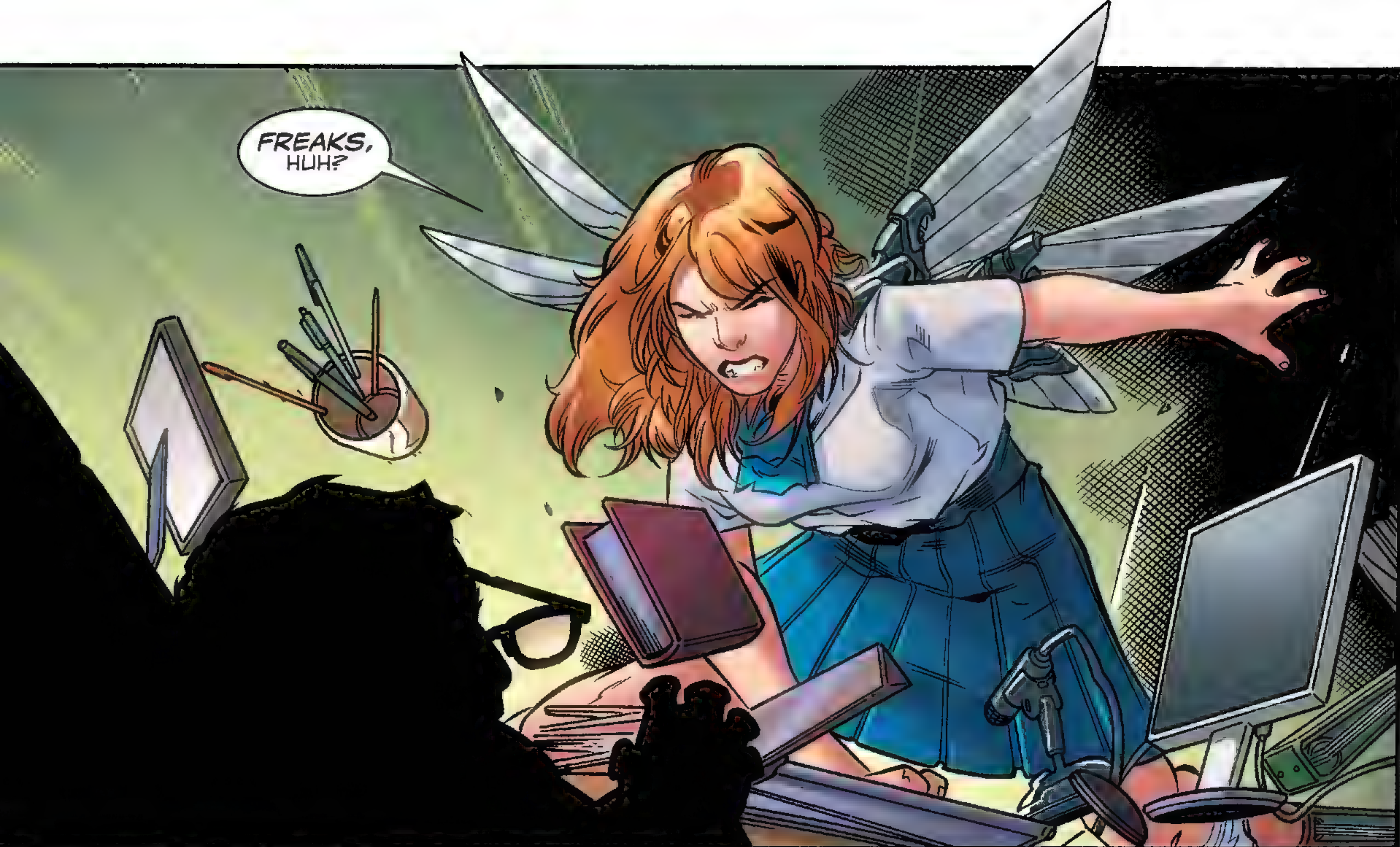
WAIT.
AGREED
TO...



GENTLEMEN...

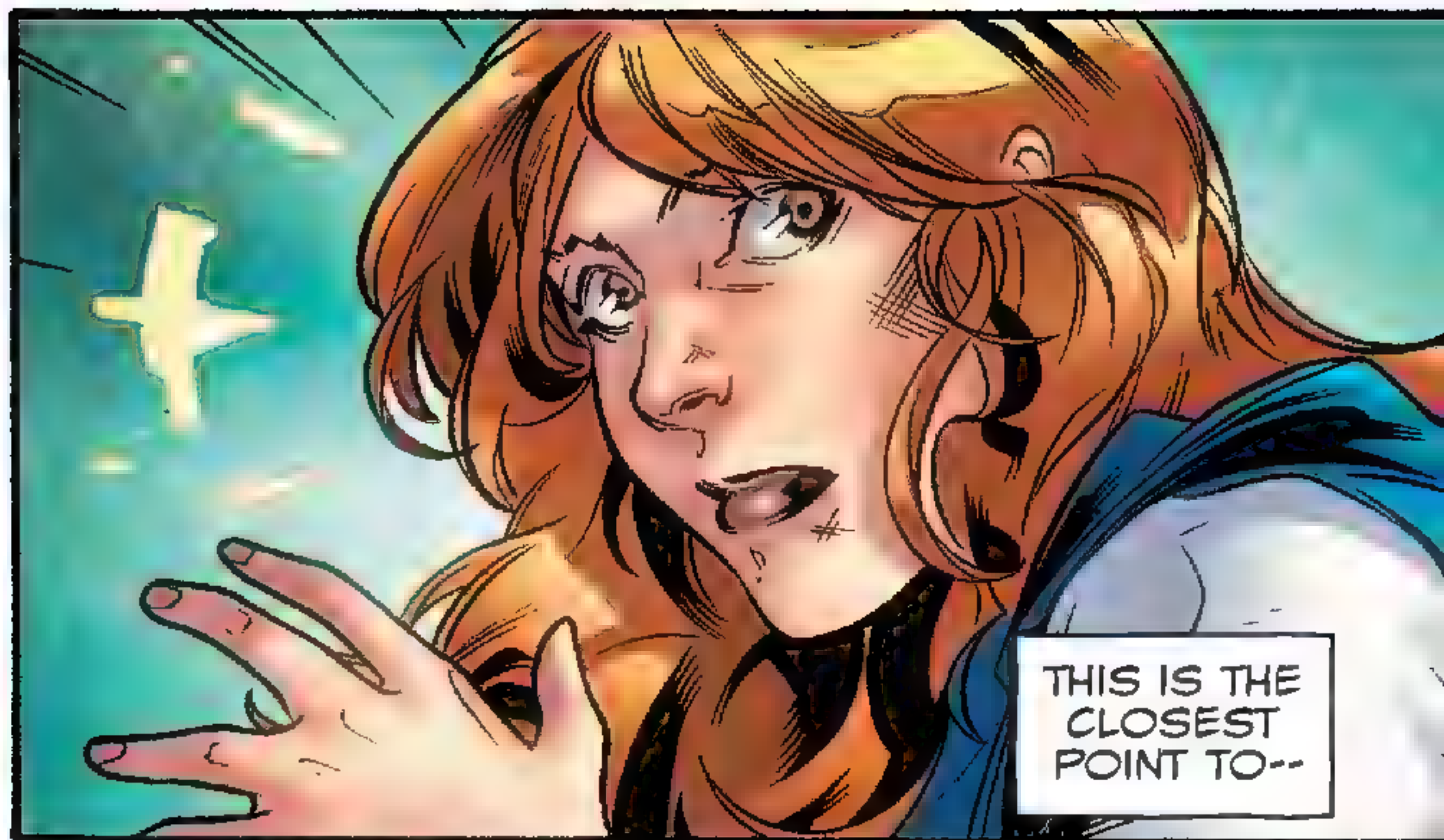
NO.







DON'T KNOW WHAT
THEY WERE PLANNING
AND **NOT** STICKING
AROUND TO FIND OUT.



THIS IS THE
CLOSEST
POINT TO--



GAAAAAHH!

WHAT?

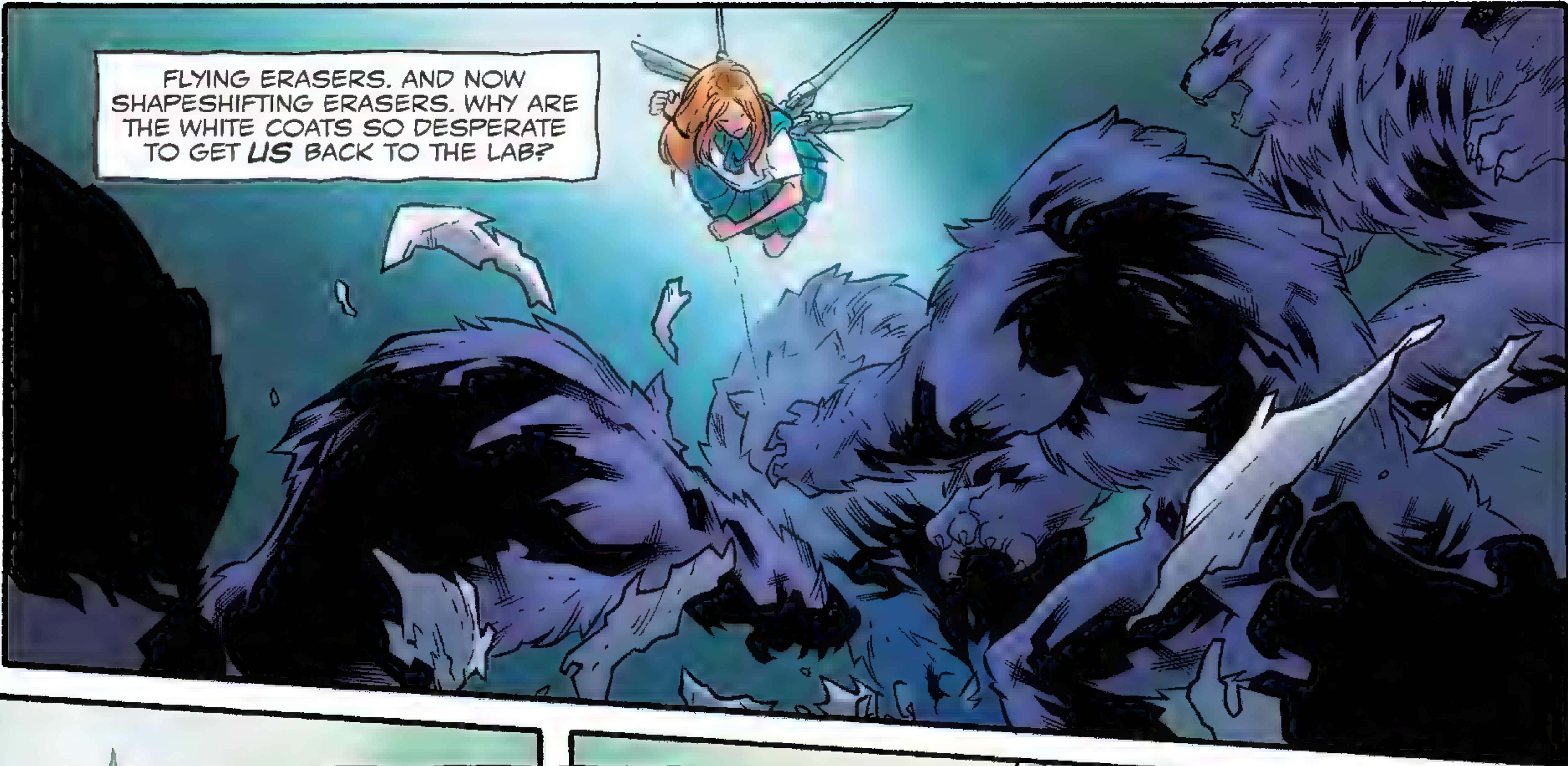
HEY,
ARE
YOU--



ERASERS.



WE WERE
SURROUNDED BY
ERASERS IN DISGUISE
THIS WHOLE TIME?!



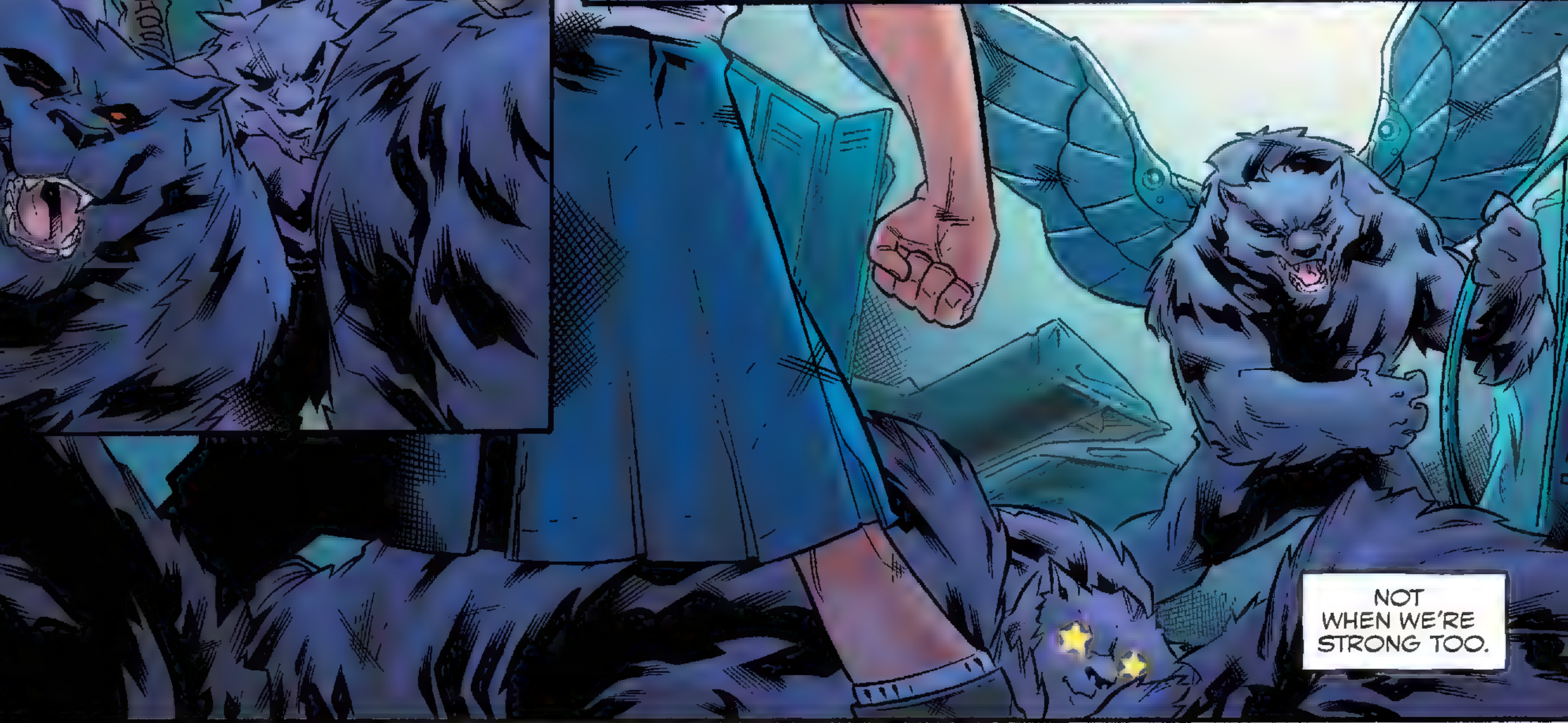
FLYING ERASERS. AND NOW
SHAPESHIFTING ERASERS. WHY ARE
THE WHITE COATS SO DESPERATE
TO GET US BACK TO THE LAB?



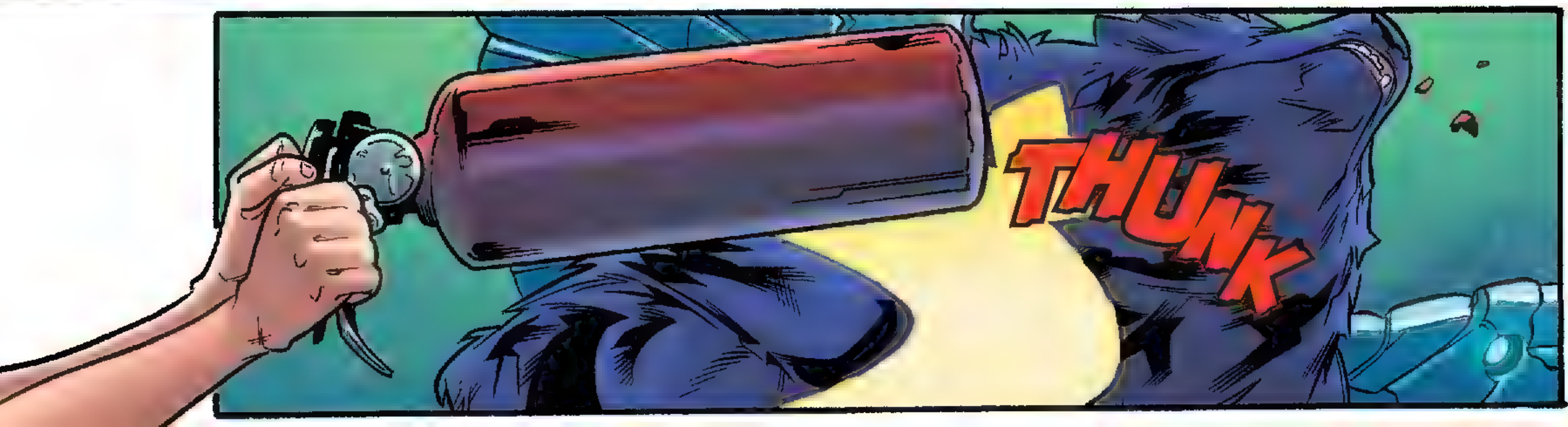
RIGHT. BECAUSE THEY'RE
IN THE BUSINESS OF
LIVING WEAPONS. AND
THESE GUYS ARE STILL
PRETTY WORTHLESS.

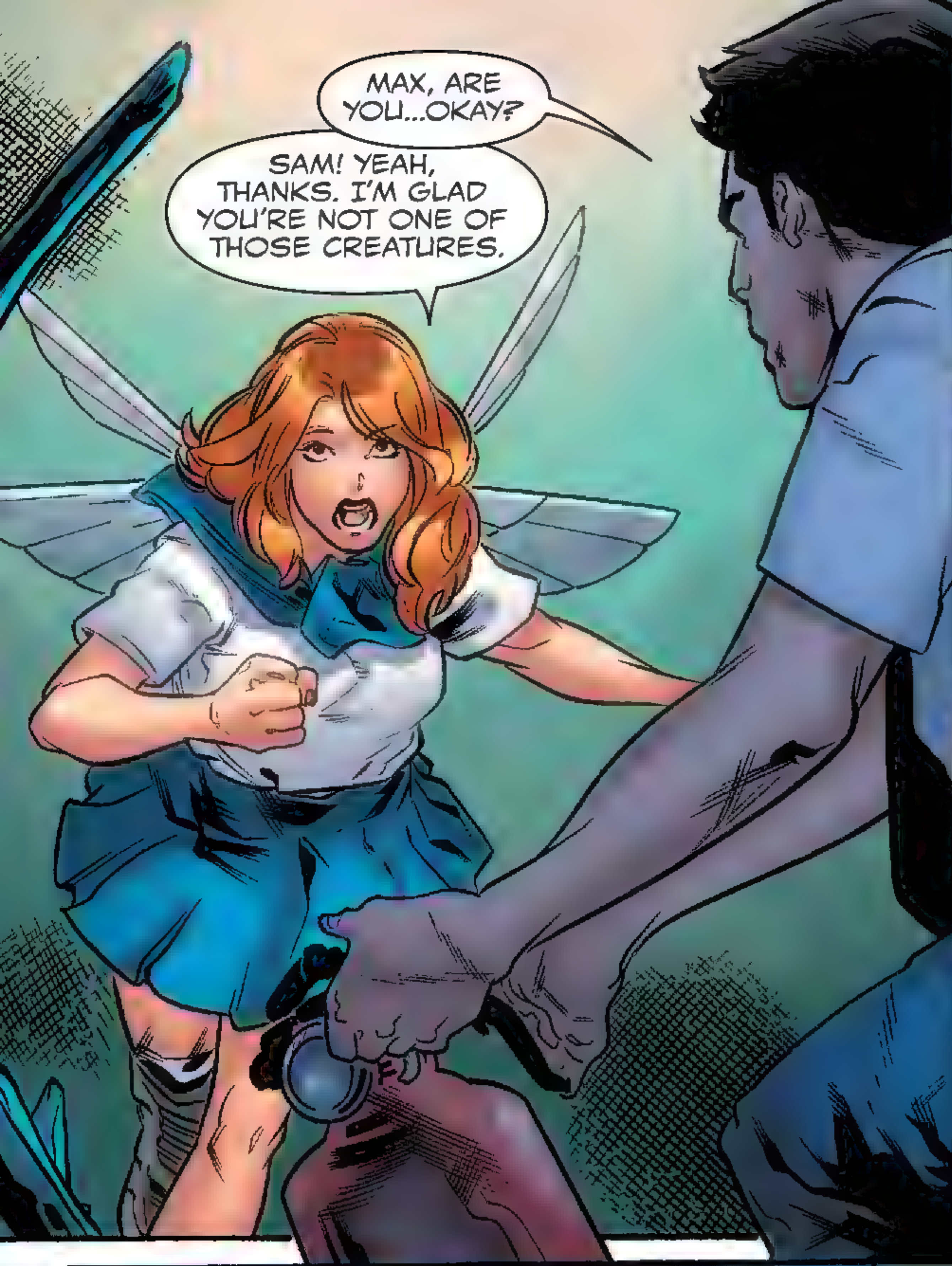


STRONG AND SCARY
DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR
SLOW AND CLUMSY.



NOT
WHEN WE'RE
STRONG TOO.





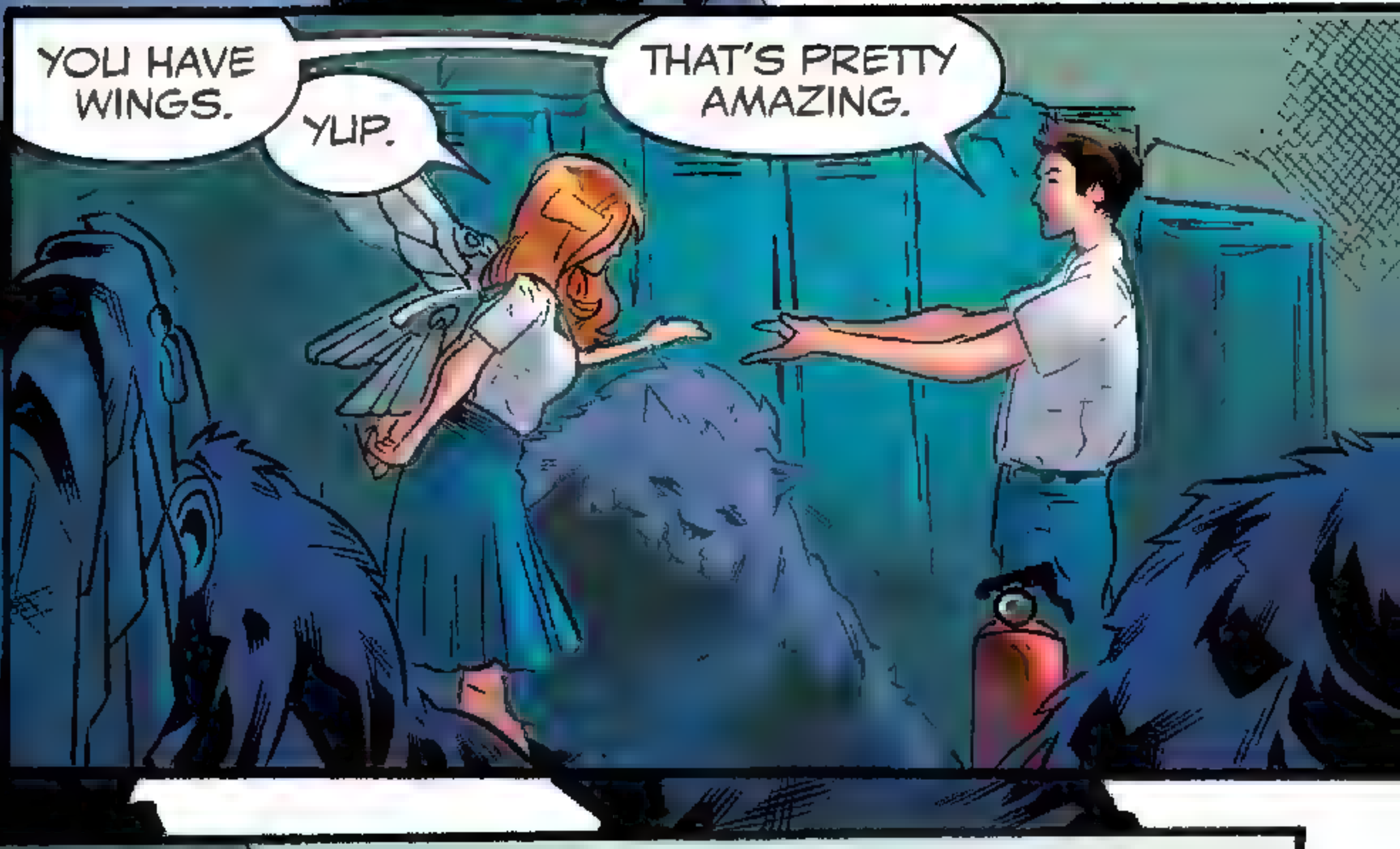
MAX, ARE YOU...OKAY?

SAM! YEAH, THANKS. I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE CREATURES.



WHAT'S... GOING ON?

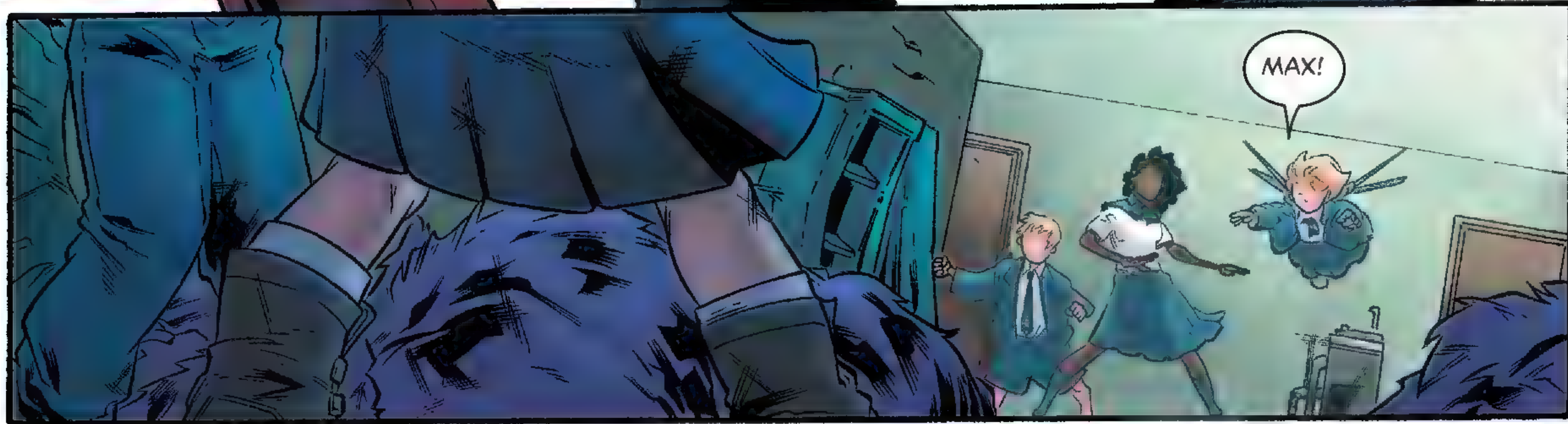
LONG STORY. VERY LONG.



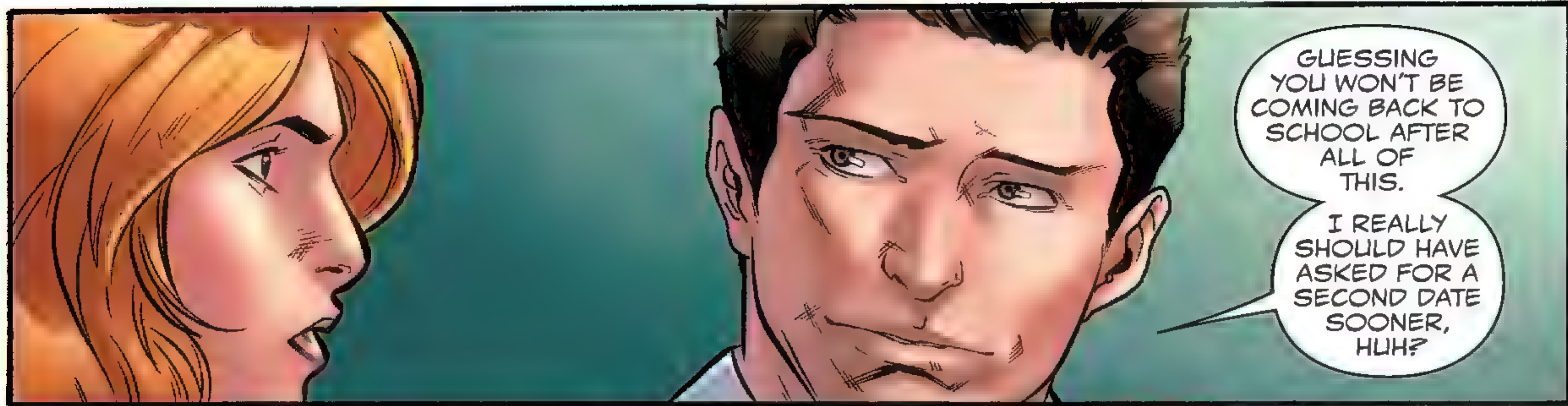
YOU HAVE WINGS.

YUP.

THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.

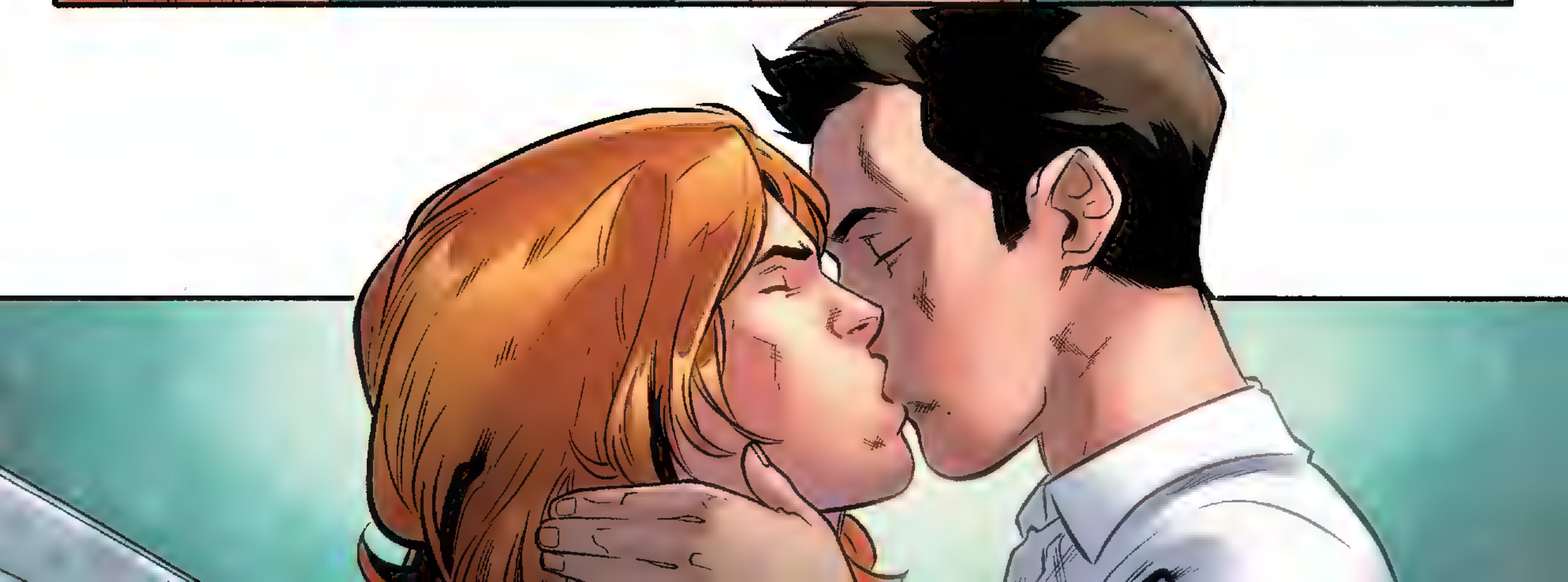


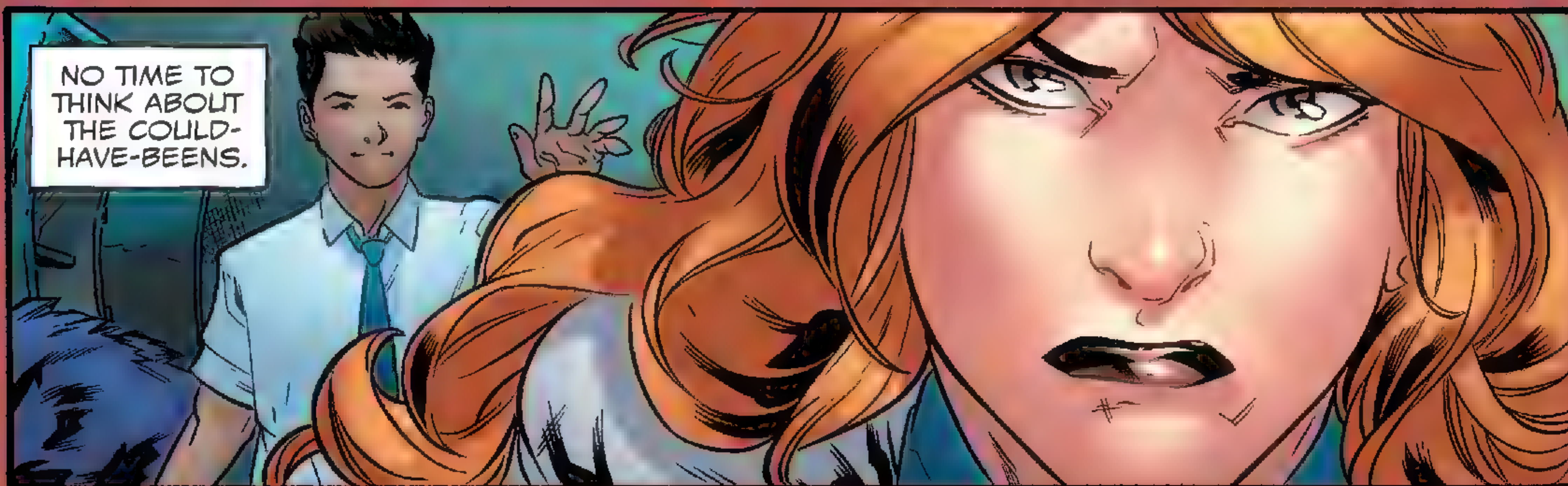
MAX!



GUESSING YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER ALL OF THIS.

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR A SECOND DATE SOONER, HUH?





NO TIME TO
THINK ABOUT
THE COULD-
HAVE-BEENS.



THIS IS WHO WE
ARE. FREAKS ON THE
RUN WITH MONSTERS
ON OUR TAIL.



EVERYTHING WE
HAVE IN THIS LIFE,
WE'VE HAD TO
FIGHT FOR.

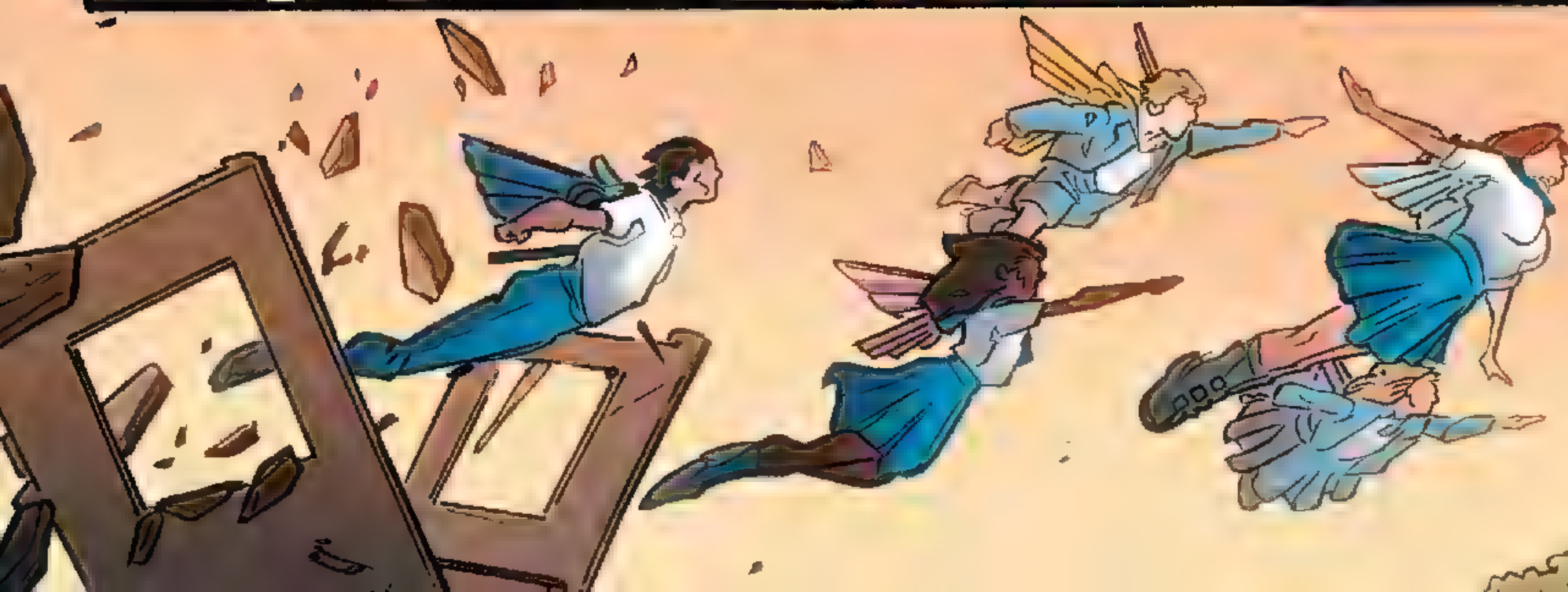
WHERE'S
FANG?!



AND AS LONG
AS WE STAND
TOGETHER, WE'LL
MAKE IT THROUGH.

OVER
HERE!

WHO
ELSE IS READY
TO FLY THE
COOP?



WILL YOU REALLY,
MAX? HOW CAN
YOU SAY THAT IF
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S COMING?

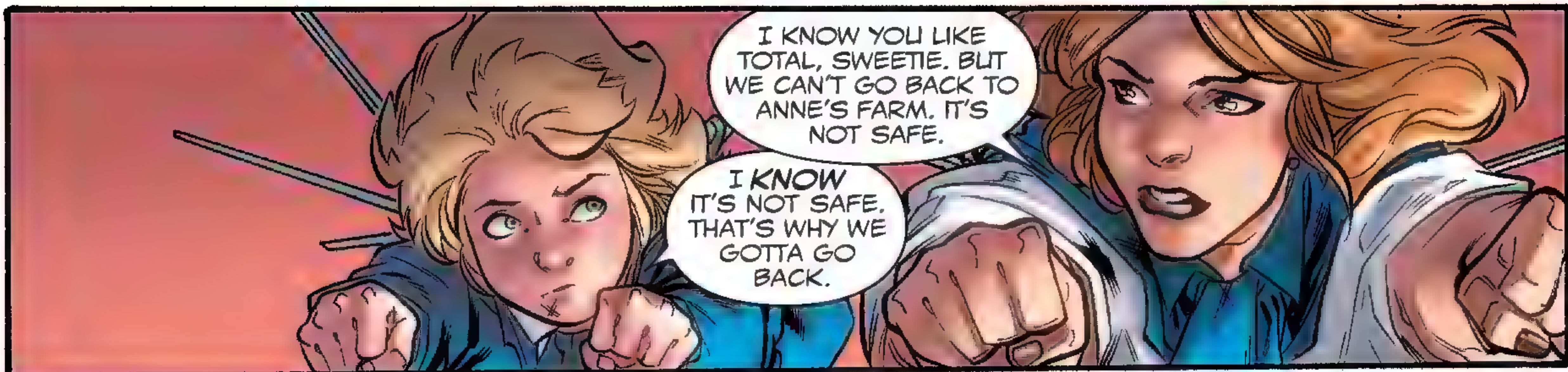
I HAVE TO BELIEVE. HOW CAN WE MOVE FORWARD IF I DON'T?



WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

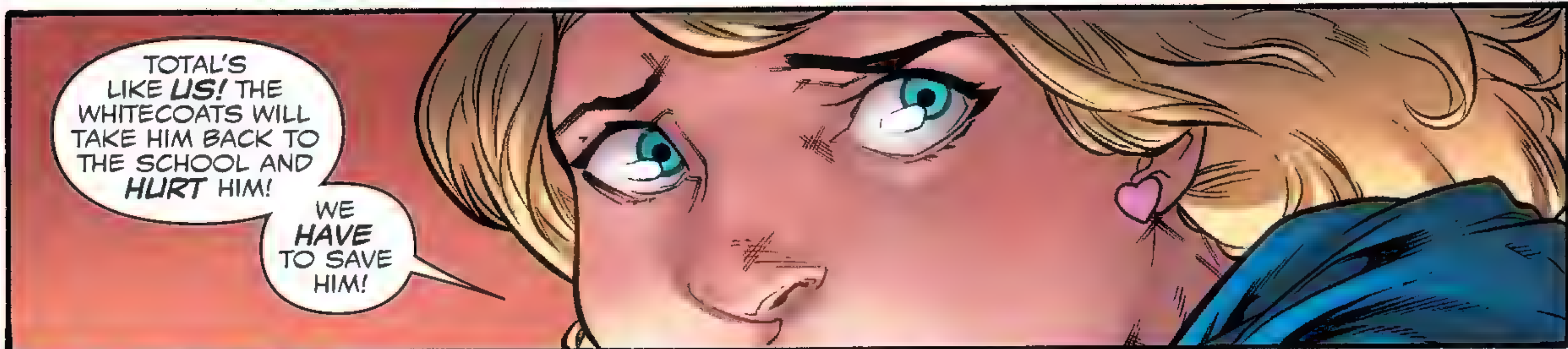
I'M NOT SURE. WE--

WE'RE GOING TO GO GET TOTAL.



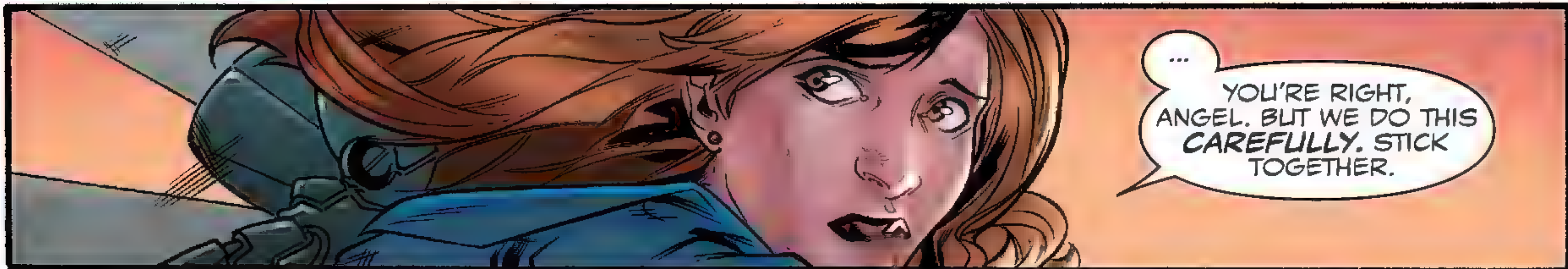
I KNOW YOU LIKE TOTAL, SWEETIE. BUT WE CAN'T GO BACK TO ANNE'S FARM. IT'S NOT SAFE.

I KNOW IT'S NOT SAFE. THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA GO BACK.

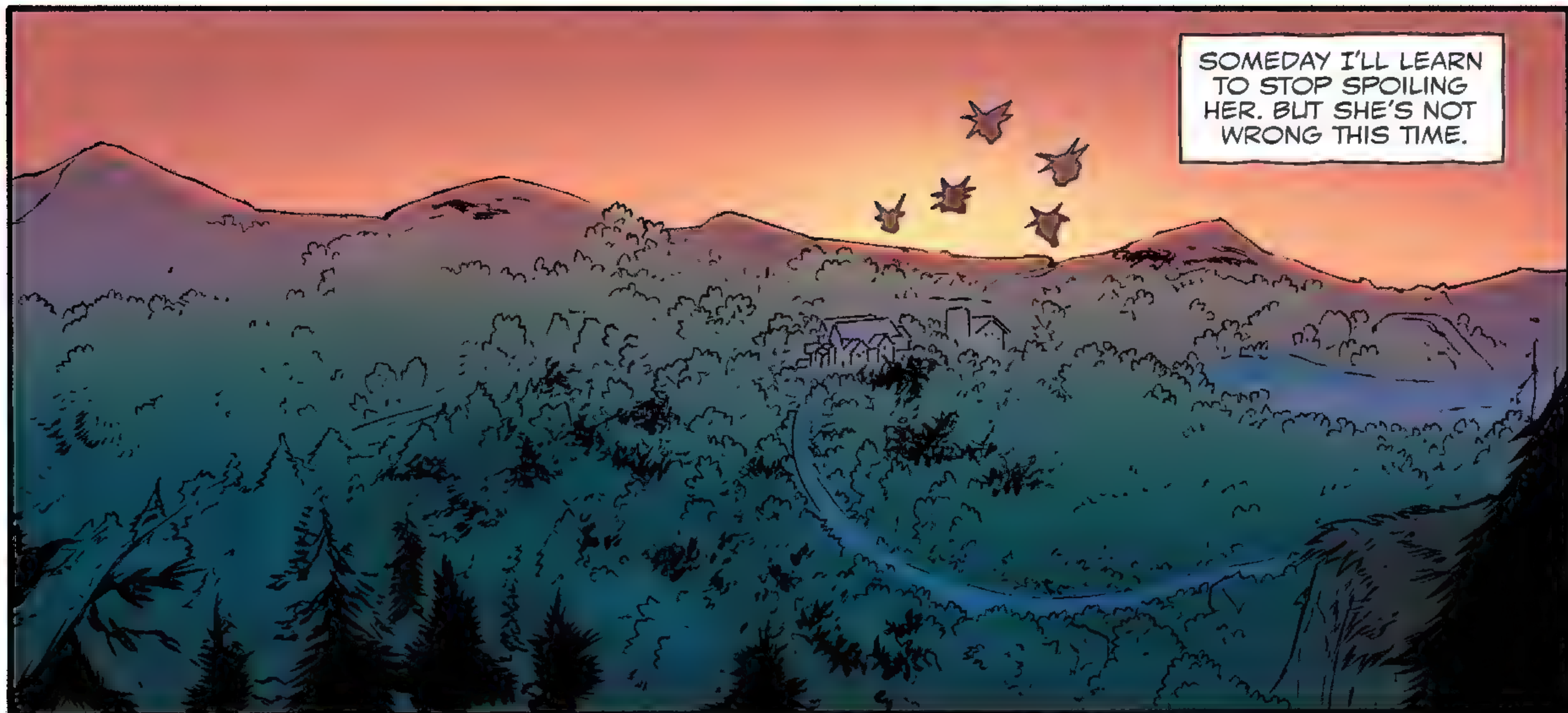


TOTAL'S LIKE US! THE WHITECOATS WILL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE SCHOOL AND HURT HIM!

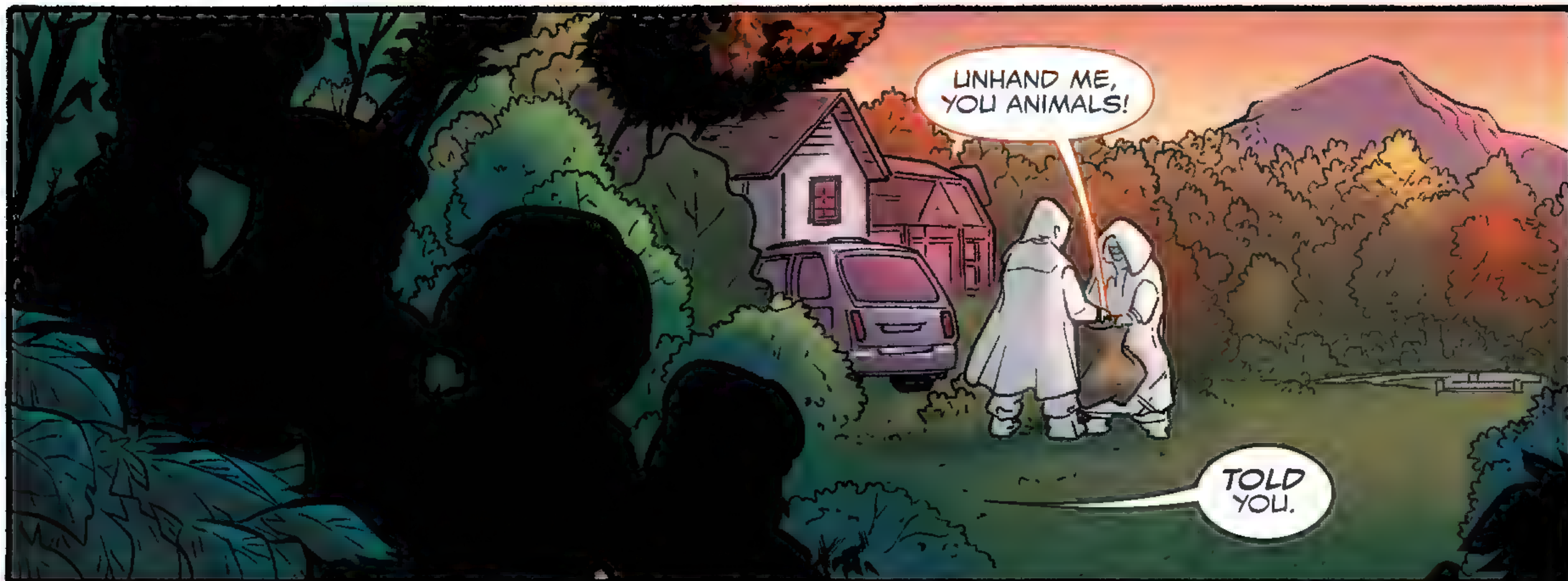
WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM!

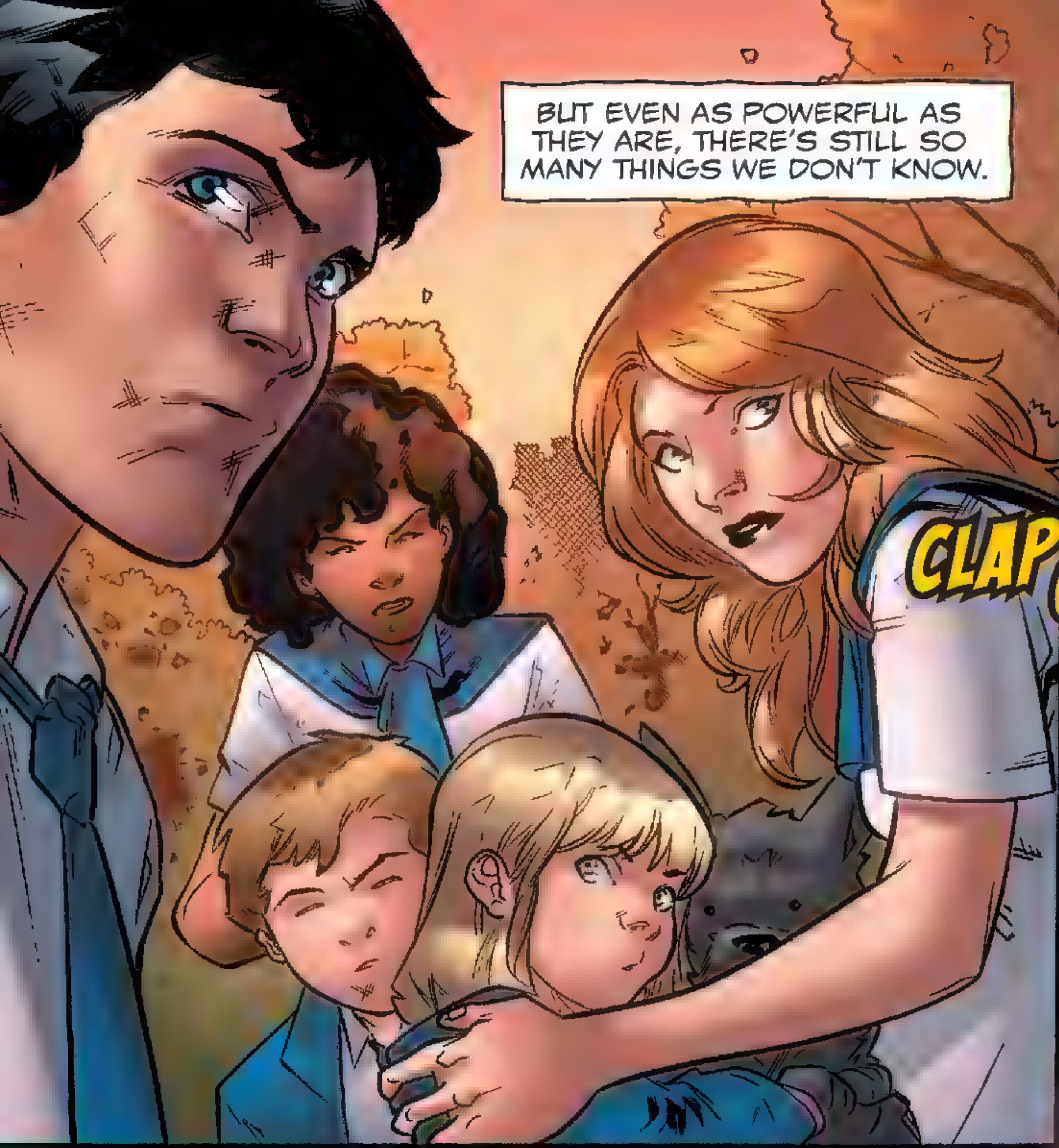


...
YOU'RE RIGHT, ANGEL. BUT WE DO THIS CAREFULLY. STICK TOGETHER.



SOMEDAY I'LL LEARN TO STOP SPOILING HER. BUT SHE'S NOT WRONG THIS TIME.





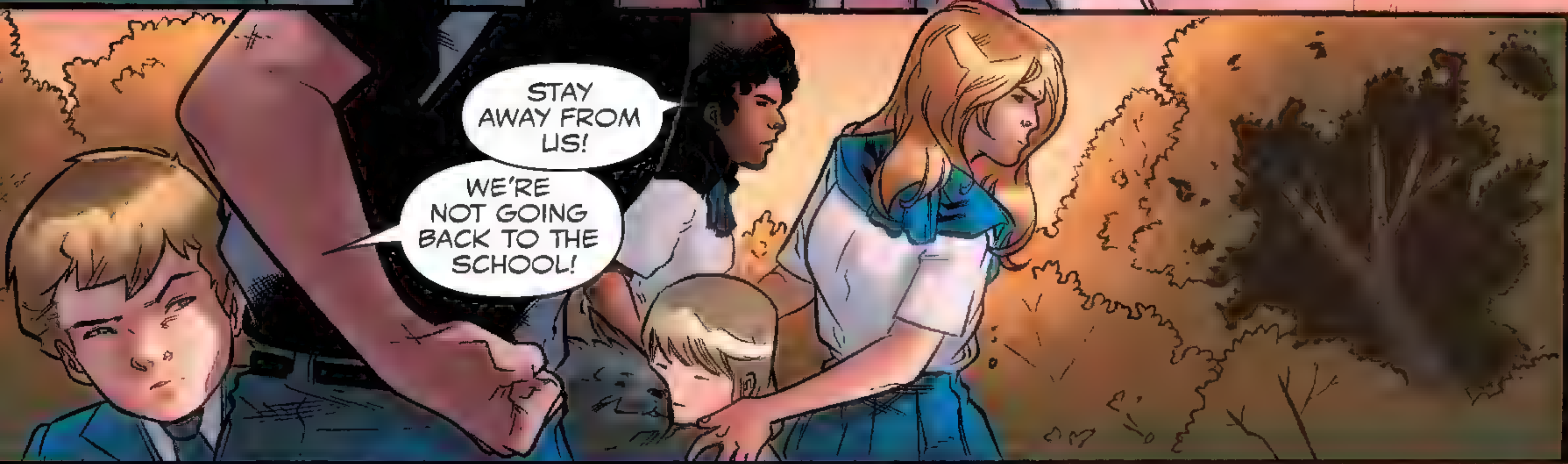
BUT EVEN AS POWERFUL AS THEY ARE, THERE'S STILL SO MANY THINGS WE DON'T KNOW.



LOOK AT YOU. YOU'VE COME SO FAR IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

JEB?



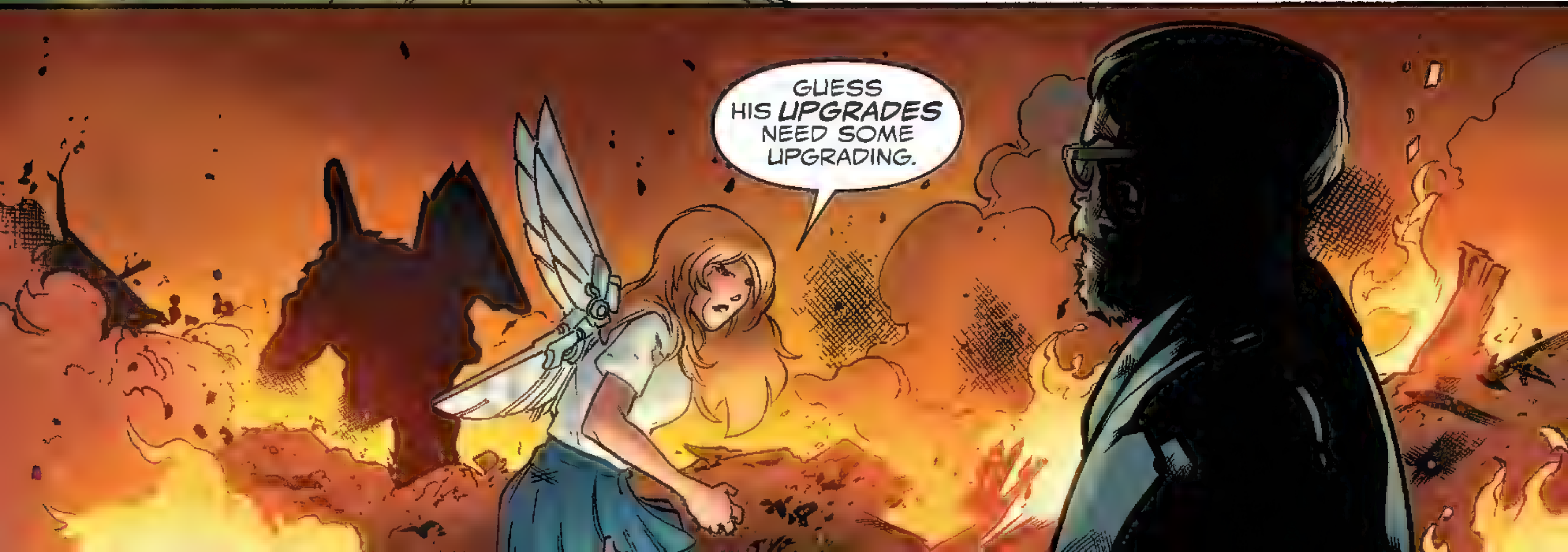
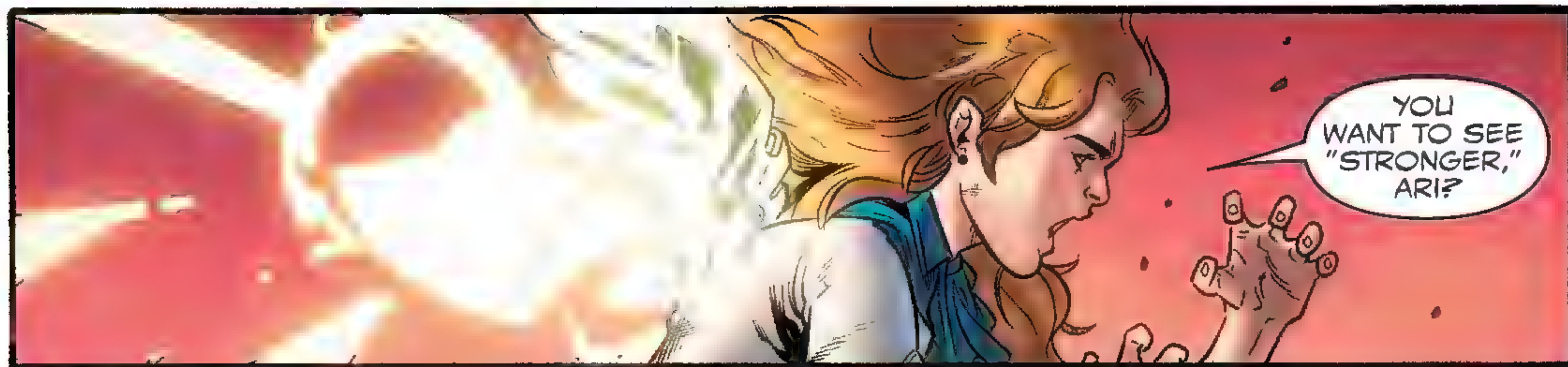
STAY AWAY FROM US!

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE SCHOOL!



WHAT MAKES YOU LITTLE **FREAKS** THINK YOU HAVE A CHOICE?

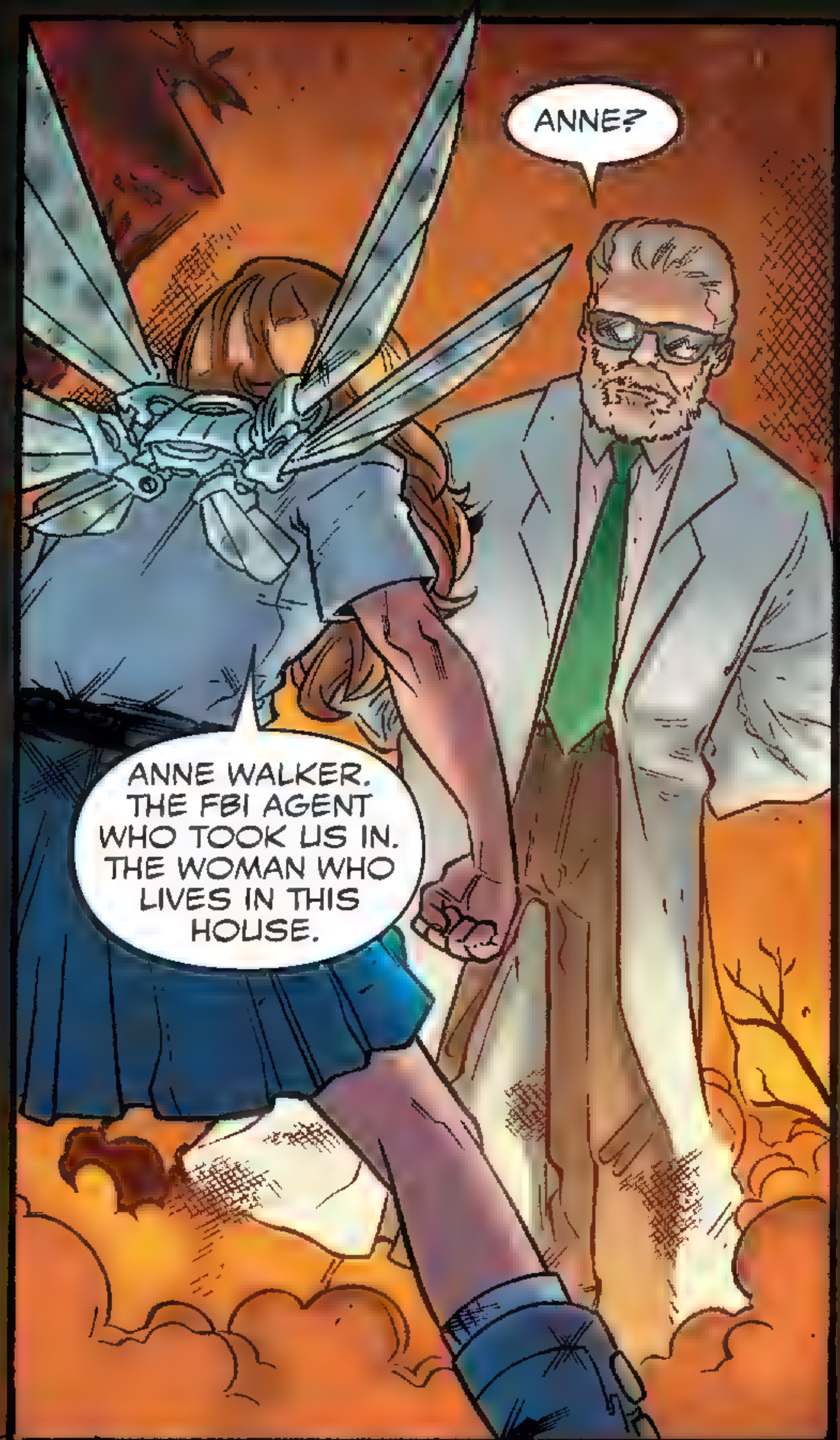
ARI. STAND DOWN.





I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, MAX.

STOP IT. TELL ME WHERE ANNE IS.



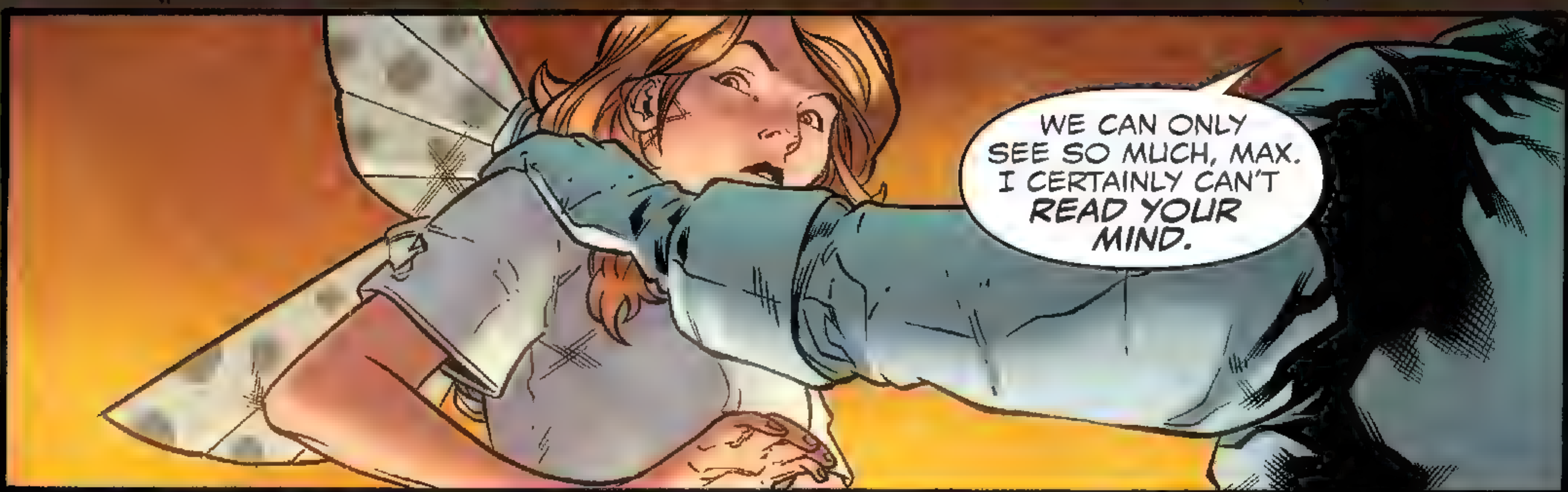
ANNE?

ANNE WALKER. THE FBI AGENT WHO TOOK US IN. THE WOMAN WHO LIVES IN THIS HOUSE.

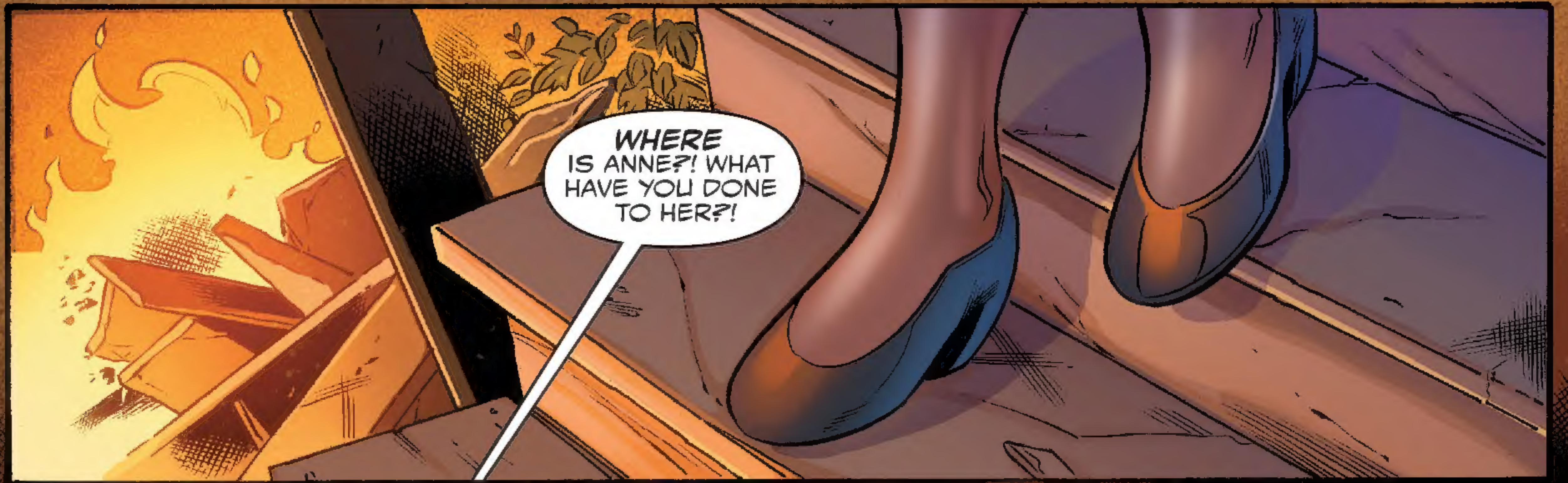



AH, YES. AND DID YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY HERE? GOING TO SCHOOL, BEING **NORMAL** CHILDREN?

IF YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING US, YOU SHOULD KNOW.



WE CAN ONLY SEE SO MUCH, MAX. I CERTAINLY CAN'T READ YOUR MIND.





DON'T TRUST ANY
GROWNUP WHO ACTS LIKE
THEY CARE ABOUT YOU.

...JEB
WOULDN'T
DO ANYTHING
TO HURT HIS
BOSS.

TO BE CONTINUED...

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

NEXT:



